MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 FEBRUARY 1982

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak, in remarks broadcast by Cairo radio, said he was very pleased with his second round of talks with President Ronald Reagan, describing them as frank, friendly and fruitful. Mubarak welcomed the affirmation that the United States will continue to act as a full partner in the peace process, and said he looks forward to seeing President Reagan in Cairo. The radio also reported Mubarak's press conference on Capitol Hill in which he said he doubts anything will change in Egyptian-Israeli relations, which are proceeding in accordance with the Camp David accords. Noting that he hopes to reach a solution to the Palestinian problem, he said it would be very good if this occurred by the end of this year. Mubarak also told journalists that the presence of Soviet experts in Egypt does not deserve all the "noise" being afforded the issue.

MENA reported that in his speech to Congress, Mubarak said he is determined to strengthen and renew U.S.-Egyptian ties of friendship. Expressing appreciation for U.S. aid, he said Egypt wants some amendments to be made to the aid program to make it more effective. Mubarak noted that Egypt seeks to encourage more investments and to assimilate more technology. MENA also cited an official Egyptian source as stating that the Reagan-Mubarak talks fulfilled all of Egypt's required targets in the political, economic and military fields.

In a commentary on Mubarak's current tour reported by MENA, AL-AHRAM said it is now obvious to U.S. and European leaders that Egypt has a leadership committed to a constant and firm policy. AL-AHRAM deplored the "concentrated campaign" comparing Mubarak with late President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, asserting that such a comparison creates confusion by wrongly presuming that Egypt has reverted to An-Nasir's policies. Regarding Egypt's relations with the Arab world, AL-AHRAM said any rapprochement between Egypt and fraternal Arab states will in no way be at the expense of the Egyptian option for peace. Providing detailed coverage of the results of U.S.-Egyptian aid negotiations, AL-AHRAM said the United States agreed to the Egyptian request that $400 million of the $1.3 billion military aid package be regarded as a grant rather than a soft loan.

According to another MENA report, AL-AHRAM also urged intensified efforts to bring the Palestinian autonomy talks to a fruitful phase and reiterated Egypt's call for Israel to take confidence-building measures in the proposed autonomy area and for the United States to hold a comprehensive dialogue with the Palestinian side, "whoever its representatives may be, even if in an unofficial manner or in an undeclared way at the beginning." Asserting that initiatives in this respect have been so slow as to border on inertia, AL-AHRAM characterized recent Israeli policies toward the Palestinians as "trust-destroying measures."

Israel

Reaction to Mubarak Remarks -- Jerusalem radio reported that Israeli political circles' reacted to President Mubarak's call in Washington for assistance in achieving Palestinian self-determination by emphasizing that the term self-determination is a cover for establishing a Palestinian state and that its omission from the Camp David accords is no coincidence. The radio described the circles' reaction as reserved, and added that they also noted Mubarak's announcement that Egypt is committed to the peace process.

Shamir To Visit Egypt -- According to Jerusalem radio, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has received an official invitation from his Egyptian counterpart Kamal Hasan 'Ali to pay an official visit to Egypt.

Lebanon

Haddad Charges, UNIFIL Denial -- Jerusalem radio reported a Metulla news conference in which Christian border enclave militia Commander Maj Sa'd Haddad told correspondents that there are nearly 900 "terrorists" equipped with heavy weapons in the area under control of UNIFIL troops. Haddad also demanded that UNIFIL either expel the terrorists or permit Haddad's forces to do so. According to the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio, a UNIFIL spokesman denied that large Palestinian forces have entered the UNIFIL area.

'Arafat Meetings -- Voice of Lebanon radio reported a meeting between Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-Asad and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at which it was agreed that the Palestinian resistance will withdraw its forces from Hannawiyah so that Israel will be given no excuse for committing aggression. Citing the Palestinian news agency WAFA, Beirut radio reported that at a meeting with UN Under Secretary General Brian Urquhart, 'Arafat expressed his dedication to continuing the cease-fire across the Lebanese border.

PLO

Citing "authoritative" Palestinian sources, KUNA reported that the Soviet Union recently supplied the PLO with sophisticated weapons worth $50 million. According to the sources, the weapons include surface-to-air missiles, Frog missiles, a rapid detection radar network and heavy artillery. The sources added that the weapons are now operated by Palestinian resistance officers who were trained in Soviet military academies.

Iraq

Baghdad radio reported that First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan addressed fighters from Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia, Jordan, Palestine, Morocco, Algeria, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen, who had come to Iraq to participate in the war with Iran. Ramadan expressed pleasure at their readiness to join in the battle.

Iran

Warning Against Imitating Jordan -- In a commentary on King Husayn's initiative to send volunteers to assist Iraq in the war, Tehran radio's Turkish service warned that if other "puppet regimes" in the region imitate Jordan's move, Iran will not hesitate to punish them, but it will take no responsibility for the resulting spread of the war.

Anti-Saudi Commentary -- A commentary in Tehran radio's Arabic service maintained that in view of Saudi Arabia's conspiracies against the small countries in the Persian Gulf, Iran is becoming increasingly convinced of the need to topple the corrupt Saudi regime. The commentary argued that the Saudi regime is too shaky to be able to protect the small Gulf countries, but that Iran can protect them against Saudi pressure and threats, and would do so if they refrained from participating in anti-Iranian conspiracies.

Correction to 4 February Review

Page ii, second paragraph, line six make read:... his hope that Jordan will continue to thwart terrorist activity, and added that if Jordan's policy were to change, it is inconceivable that Israel would maintain the status....

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PALESTINIAN SOURCES COMMENT ON USSR ARMS SUPPLY

LD050904 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0803 GMT 5 Feb 82

[Text] Damascus, 5 Feb (KUNA) -- It was reported here today that the Soviet Union has recently supplied the Palestinian resistance with $50 million worth of sophisticated weapons.

"Authoritative" Palestinian sources here told KUNA that the weapons include surface-to-air missiles, Frog missiles and other missiles in addition to rapid detection radar network and heavy artillery. The sources said that this arms deal is the result of the talks which Yasir 'Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), held in Moscow last October.

They pointed out that an agreement was signed during that visit "to supply the Palestinian resistance with sophisticated weapons to confront the repeated Israeli attacks on the Palestinian people."

They said that a high-level Palestinian military delegation recently returned to Beirut following a 1-week visit to the Soviet Union. The purpose of this visit was to continue the implementation of the Soviet program of backing the Palestinian revolution. The sources said that the delegation was led by member of Fatah Central Committee and chief of the Military Operations Room Brigadier Sa'd Sayil.

The Palestinian sources said that these weapons "are aimed at strengthening Palestinian military power in confronting future attacks and challenges and at defending both the positions of the revolution and the Palestinian concentrations against Israeli air raids."

The sources pointed out that Palestinian resistance officers who have received training in Soviet military academies "are the ones who are now using these sophisticated weapons. They do not need foreign experts." The sources added that other Palestinian officers "are now receiving higher military training in the general staff colleges in the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, North Korea and other socialist states as well as in Pakistan and India."

The sources pointed out that missiles, heavy artillery and modern tanks appeared at a Palestinian military parade in Beirut last 1 January. They said that American-made howitzer artillery, which (?North) Yemen had presented to the resistance, also appeared in this parade.

'ARAFAT MEETS WITH HUNGARIAN LEADERS 1-3 FEB

For reports of 'Arafat's meetings with Hungarian leaders and of a 3 February press conference with comments on the Syrian and Fahd plans for a Middle East settlement, see the Hungary section 3 February Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

SAUDI ARABIA

PRINCE SULTAN COMMENTS ON AREA DEVELOPMENTS

LD041326 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] Saudi Minister of Defense and Aviation Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-Aziz has affirmed that any strength the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council has is for the Arab nation and peace in the area, supporting the Arab League Charter and the joint defense that stems from the constitution and laws of the League. Therefore, the Gulf countries constitute an indivisible part of the Arab nation militarily, strategically and economically.

In a statement to the Lebanese magazine AL-HAWADITH, which is reprinted by the Saudi paper AL-JAZIRAH today, Prince Sultan, commenting on the Arab Gulf countries' relations with Iran, said: We consider the Iranian people fraternal Muslim people and Iran a fraternal Muslim country. Therefore, the Gulf countries hold nothing but amity for Iran and wish it all good and stability. All we hope for, he said, is an end to the Iraqi-Iranian war and restoration of good relations between the Arab countries, including those of the Gulf region, and Iran, to the best level.

Prince Sultan denied that any Iranian planes have flown in Saudi skies and said that the kingdom would not permit the flight of any planes through its airspace to invade another country, particularly if such a country were a fraternal or neighboring one.

Speaking about the French foreign minister's visit to the kingdom, Prince Sultan said that France is a friendly country from which we have imported arms for many years, and our relations with it are good. Consequently, he said, the French foreign minister's visit was a continuation of past cooperation.

Referring to next week's visit to the kingdom by the U.S. defense secretary, Prince Sultan pointed out that the visit is intended only to affirm the existing friendship between the kingdom and the United States, which is a friendship between equals from the standpoint of independence and sovereignty. He is also coming to see for himself the extent of the development and efficiency attained by the Saudi Armed Forces, which is contrary to the picture being painted by the hostile information media, Zionist and otherwise.

On the diversification of sources of arms, Prince Sultan said: Before we buy arms and stockpile them, we must find out how can we absorb them because our people demand that we do everything to serve their interests.

The Saudi people's absolute trust in their leadership, he said, makes it think responsibly about all matters that would enhance the dignity of the people.

Referring to the recent statements by Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir, Prince Sultan said: What is important in this respect is Arab solidarity. Once the Arabs have solidarity, as we hope and as will happen shortly, God willing, then we cannot expect our enemy to say other than what has the prince added.

Prince Sultan said that we want the Arab world to prove to every enemy and to every friend alike that we are one nation and that our usurped rights cannot be retrieved except through our solidarity and our realization of our common interests. This is what all the Arab leaders are working for within the framework of the Arab League, he said. I feel, the prince said, that Arab solidarity actually exists and in the wars the Arab world has seen, the Arabs have united as one at the last moment.

Prince Sultan said that this, however, will not solve problems unless there is previously planned solidarity with priority given to all the problems facing the Arab world and the ambitions of world Zionism or of the West or the East. He expressed the hope that the Arabs' objectives and positions will become unified once more and that everything will return to its right, natural place.

Asked if the kingdom has decided to become a frontline country, Prince Sultan said: I consider the entire Arab nation a frontline state against Israel. There is confrontation on the common borders and there is confrontation in feelings and common blood with the countries at the front line. All this, he said, is aimed at making Israel give in and agree to return to the Arabs, particularly the Palestinians, their just rights and restore their legitimate rights and give back the usurped Arab territories. What has been taken by force, he said, can only be retrieved by force. True force lies in faith in God Almighty Unless we believe in God as our guide and beacon, we will never triumph under any circumstances.

Prince Sultan denied that the kingdom had asked Syria to intercede with Iran to end the war or that the kingdom had asked Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to convey a message to the USSR or to Iran.

He expressed his hope that Lebanon will once more become a secure and independent country. He added that the situation in Lebanon can be rectified only by the people of Lebanon. Once all factions and sections become convinced that an end must be found to division and problems in Lebanon, all problems will come to an end.

Prince Sultan denied that the Saudi Middle East peace plan was the result of consultations with Washington. He added that the United States was the first to reject and openly fight the initiative. We do not borrow our views from any foreign country in any form. The truth is that the initiative was a Saudi effort and was a consequence of the results of the Camp David accords and the Arab rejection of those accords. The initiative was a Saudi effort and was submitted to the Arab summit conference, where it has now become an Arab plan.

UAE

AL-KHALIJ CALLS FOR ACTIVE GULF POLITICAL ROLE

GF041500 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0805 GMT 4 Feb 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 Feb (WAM)-- The newspaper AL-KHALIJ calls on the Arab Gulf countries to couple their official statements with clear practical measures and proofs. They should move from the stage of support to the stage of participation in making Arab political decisions and deal with the United States in a way that compels respect.

The newspaper says the Gulf Cooperation Council countries control the nerves of the U.S. economy. A brave decision by them can force the United States and others to stop their abuse of the Arabs. "A national decision to reject any form of U.S. presence in the region will enbale the Gulf countries to achieve maximum security for the region; keeping the Arab Gulf away from plots of U.S. hegemony and away from the Israeli military arm which has resulted from the special relations between Washington and Tel Aviv."

The newspaper continues: "One decision by the Gulf countries to affirm that the United States and Israel share everything, to propose real, practical steps that will ensure the need for Arab military option and put off any other option will carry the Gulf countries to the stage of efficient participation in making Arab political decisions."

In conclusion the newspaper says: "Without this stand, we will only be adding one more statement to the Arab statements of denunciation and condemnation at a time when the U.S.-Israeli alliance is getting stronger and stronger at our expense."

PDRY

PALESTINIAN OFFICIAL ARRIVES, MAKES STATEMENT

LD042000 Aden ANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] Aden, 4 Feb (ANA) -- Nayif Hawatmah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, arrived in Aden this morning on a visit to the PDRY of several days, during which he will conduct talks with the YSP officials.

In a statement to ANA he said that the Palestinian revolution, the PDRY and all the forces of the Arab steadfastness front are today facing a dangerous turning point, particularly following the annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights by the Zionist enemy.

He added that the Zionist enemy is now threatening to invade southern Lebanon with the hope of dealing blows to the Palestinian revolution, to the Lebanese nationalist force, and to the Arab deterrent force and with the aim of widening the flames of war so that it engulfs the entire eastern front. He said that in the face of these developments we have a national and pan-Arab responsibility to put an end to the arrogance of the Zionist enemy.

He pointed out that this visit is in response to the invitation of the YSP Central Committee to discuss and study this issue with a view to reaching joint results and give momentum to the Arab steadfastness front so that it may define a new criteria for inter-Arabrelations. There will also be discussion on developing democratic international cooperation with our peoples in the face of the American, Zionist and reactionary onslaught, particularly since the Camp David accord reached a dead end.

MORE REPORTAGE, COMMENT ON MUBARAK'S U.S. VISIT

Statement on Meeting Reagan

NC041900 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1843 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Statement delivered in English by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak following second round of talks at the White House on 4 February -- processed from superimposed simultaneous Arabic translation -- recorded]

[Text] Ladies and gentleman, I am very pleased with the results of my talks with President Reagan. As I have just emphasized, the talks we have held were frank, friendly and fruitful. I welcome the affirmation of the continuation of the U.S. role as a full partner in the peace process. We are determined to continue our peaceful efforts until a comprehensive settlement is reached according to the Camp David accords.

I intend to maintain close cooperation and consultation with President Reagan and his administration. We are looking forward to seeing him in Cairo. Thank you very much.

'Official Source' Comment

NC041940 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1929 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] Washington, 4 Feb (MENA) -- An official source in the Egyptian delegation has stated that the talks between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Ronald Reagan have fulfilled all the required targets in the political, economic and military fields.

In a statement after the conclusion of the second round of talks between the two presidents, the source said that the U.S. side affirmed to President Husni Mubarak during the talks its understanding of the Egyptian position and Egypt's economic and military needs.

Senate Press Conference

NC050043 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2343 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Press conference held in English by President Husni Mubarak at the U.S. Senate, processed from superimposed simultaneous Arabic summarization of questions and translations of answers -- recorded]

[Text] I would like first of all to thank Senator Percy for our meetings together. We have met several times before in Egypt and here in Washington and in several other places. I also extend my thanks to the Foreign Relations Committee. Continuing the answer on the question of the talks, I am pleased with the results of these talks and thank all the parties concerned. As for our future relations with Israel, I doubt that anything will change in these relations which are proceeding with practical steps in the peace process and in accordance with Camp David. Nothing new will occur. We shall regain our occupied territory on 25 April. There will be no problem after this date. What will happen is a continuation of what we are doing now. There will be no change at all in the steps.

Replying to a question about reaching a solution to the Palestinian problem, the president said: The major problem is the Palestinian problem, and we must find a solution to it. We will see that the negotiations go on. I hope and I think that satisfactory signs [for solving] the problem will emerge -- a matter which will encourage giving the Palestinians their right to self-determination and encourage them to join the negotiations in the interest of peace thourghout the area. We also hope that peace will prevail.

Replying to a question on drawing up an agenda for these talks so that no other problems, such as the Palestinian problem, will confront them, the president said: Why should we call it a problem. There was no agreement between us before these talks began to link the talks of Israel's withdrawal with the Palestinian problem which is regarded as the most complicated issue. I cannot say that before 25 April, when we asked that it be linked with complete withdrawal and the start of other negotiations, Israel refused, because we know that it is the most complicated problem. However, we hope to reach a solution. If this takes place by the end of the current year, that will be very good. We are exerting our utmost efforts and are pushing the talks forward. We are meeting with our Israel friends with U.S. participation as a full partner in this respect.

To another question about the Soviet experts, the president replied: Relations are continuing between us and the United States. There is no change in our policy, otherwise, I would not have come here. We have good relation with the United States and good cooperation with it economically, militarily and in many fields. However, as for the subject of those experts to which you are giving great importance, I believe that it does not deserve all the noise you are making in the media. We have some projects which have not yet been completed. We asked these experts to come and complete these projects because the Soviets had given guarantees about them. Therefore, they should come to carry them out.

Address to Congress

NC042124 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 4 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Washington, 4 Feb (MENA) -- The U.S. Congress today warmly welcomed President Husni Mubarak.

The welcoming speeches over, the members of Congress, as a token of appreciation and respect, accorded a standing ovation to President Mubarak, who delivered a speech in which he said he is among friends and he takes pride in this friendship and the warmth inherent in the relations [between the two countries]. He said he is pleased to renew this friendship and he is determined to strengthen and renew the relations of friendship and to build on the relations which the late President Anwar as-Sadat had established.

President Mubarak welcomed visits to Egypt by members of Congress. He also expressed Egypt's gratitude for Congress' support and understanding of Egypt's policy. He said: Our friendship with the United States is firm and a part of Egypt's policy and it will not change.

President Mubarak also affirmed Egypt's determination to continue the cooperation [with the United States]. He said Egypt appreciates the aid the United States has given to Egypt since 1967 [as received].

He said Egypt requests that some amendments be made to the aid to render its application extremely effective.

President Mubarak then spoke about certain reforms designed to bolster the open-door policy. He said: We seek to encourage more investments and to assimilate more technology.

He added that Egypt is encouraging the private sector and U.S. aid in this direction will give a strong impetus to Egypt in its efforts to adjust its development policy. President Mubarak said Egypt's economic policy is characterized by flexibility, particularly in relation to new projects.

Regarding the military cooperation between Egypt and the United States, President Mubarak said Egypt is also in need of U.S. military assistance.

The president then answered the questions put to him by the members of Congress at a closed session. He said he is prepared to answer any question to remove any doubts or ambiguities about Egypt's policy and objectives.

This meeting was held after a luncheon held by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in honor of President Mubarak, who delivered a speech in which he talked about Egypt's foreign policy and bilateral issues as well as those matters which Egypt is trying to tackle in the economic field.

Autonomy Commitment Reaffirmed

NC050955 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Feb 82

[Text] On leaving the session of the Foreign Relations [as heard]Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak announced that Egypt's stand toward the Palestinian cause has not, and will not, change.

The President said: I have not forgotten, and I will not forget, the Palestinian issue. Yesterday, when I made my speech on arriving at the White House, and at the dinner banquet, I clearly stated our stand on the Palestinian issue, on the Palestinian entity, and on the[Palestinians] right to self-determination. Newspapers came out with the story that I had disregarded Camp David. Today, with President Reagan, I announced our adherence to Camp David. A clamor was raised. They said that I mentioned Camp David but neglected the Palestinian cause.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak emphasized. I say it in all frankness: We stand for Palestinians' rights; we stand for Camp Daivd; we stand for the emergence of an autonomous government. Egypt's stand are constant and unchanging. Egypt will continue with the negotiations until autonomy is achieved but without restricting ourselves to a deadline.

President Mubarak said that he has invited President Reagan, who welcomed [the invitation], to visit Egypt and who added that a date would be set for his visit through bilateral channels.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak said: I am delighted to have met with the congressional Foreign Relations Committee. This is because we have discussed all the issues of common importance. I have also answered all the questions to dispel some doubts. It pleases me to say that Egyptian-U.S. relations are continuing, and that they will not change. These relations are stronger than ever. It also pleases me to reaffirm that we will continue with the peace process in accordance with the Camp David agreement, which is the sole document to which Egypt, the United States and Israel adhere.

Press Comment

NC050330 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2300 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Excerpt] The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH emphasized that the Egyptian concept of security and stability in the Middle East Region is based on an important fact, namely the solution of the Palestinian problem. It says that any attempt to find a just solution to all the pending problems in the region must be based on the settlement of the Palestinian problem.

In its Friday commentary, the paper explains that all the previous peace attempts -- since 1948 -- have not succeeded, because they did not start with the right step, namely the Palestinian problem.

The paper says: On the basis of this fact, President Husni Mubarak emphasized during the first session of talks with President Reagan that recognition of the Palestinian people and of their right to self-determination will lead to peace.

The paper points out that if the American administration is well aware that complete Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai constitutes an important step on the road to peace, then it must also know that this step must be followed by other steps that will complement it and bolster it. The most important of these steps is autonomy in the [West] Bank and Gaza. The paper concludes its commentary by saying that if the U.S. administration is keen on the issuance of the declaration of principles that will define the course of the autonomy talks between Egypt and Israel, then it is requested to translate this keenness into intensified efforts to convince the Israeli Government of the real and just concept of Palestinian autonomy.

Commenting on the same subject, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says in its Friday issue that President Mubarak emphasized during his discussions the importance of the United States presenting military aid to its friends to enable them to defend themselves.

The president asked the United States to help the Sudan and Somalia and Oman in addition to Egypt. He emphasized the importance of this on the grounds that security and stability stem enhanced capabilities of the states of the area.

The paper says that an official source has stated that the Egyptian and American sides have exchanged views on the question of autonomy and emphasized their eagerness to achieve a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

Regarding the military aspect, the paper says that the United States will continue to support Egypt and to meet its demands and that it has shown an understanding of Egypt's needs despite the burdens it is now shouldering to meet the increasing needs of its allies and its endeavors to cut expenses and foreign aid.

AL-AHRAM Comments

NC050120 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2245 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 4 Feb (MENA) -- In its Friday issue, the newspaper AL-AHRAM says President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's current trip to the United States and before that to France and Italy has so far achieved great progress in the various political, economic and military fields. The paper first reviews the political dimension, saying:

1. It has become obvious to the presidents and decisionmakers of these states that Egypt now has a new leadership committed to a constant and firm policy. Nevertheless, this new leadership has specific priorities dictated by the circumstances in the wake of the assassination of the departed leader Anwar as-Sadat. This was the answer to the big question raised furing the first visit undertaken by Husni Mubarak as president of the Republic of Egypt. The question is: Who is Husni Mubarak? What views does he hold and what impressions does he want to leave on Egypt's foreign and domestic policy in the coming period?

2. With regard to the Palestinian issue, President Husni Mubarak is proceeding along the path of the departed President Anwar as-Sadat by emphasizing that the people, whose cause this is, are the ones who bear its banner, and they must be encouraged to join the negotiations to make their decisions to realize their hopes, aspirations and future. Therefore, Egypt always advocated the Palestinians' right to self-determination which could lead to an independent state. He also emphasized Egypt's basic demand announced by the departed President as-Sadat during his last trip to the United States, namely, the need for a dialogue to be opened between the United States and the Palestinians and, indeed, for the United States to recognize the PLO.

The Palestinian issue has never become the issue of reaching an agreement on autonomy for the Palestinians as soon as possible or for this to be achieved before the final withdrawal from the Sinai. On the other hand, there is no connection at all between the autonomy negotiations and the date of Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai. With the existence of a wide gap between the Egyptian concept of real autonomy for the Palestinians and the administrative rule Israel is seeking for the West Bank and Gaza, all that Egypt can do is to continue the negotiations with the United States and Israel to achieve the great goal that will realize for the Palestinians their legitimate rights.

4. There is a clamor or a concentrated campaign has begun, comparing President Husni Mubarak with the departed President Jamal "Abd an-Nasir even through he personally declared that he is neither 'Abd an-Nasir nor Anwar as'Sadat and that comparison is meant to create new confusion by presuming that Egypt has reverted to policies that ended during 'Abd an-Nasir's tenure such as the great Egyptian-Soviet rapprochement during this period or the return of the closed-door economic policy, custodianship, confiscation and nationalization.

AL-AHRAM goes on to say: On the other hand, there has been a great fuss about the return of some Soviet experts which Egypt has called in order to guarantee its financial and economic rights and to ensure that the equipment Egypt bought is operating. The Soviet Union must bear the responsibility for any failure in the operation of the factories or the equipment Egypt imported. These experts will not arrive in Egypt all at once. Also, their stay in Egypt will range between 1 and 12 months. However, Egypt declared it is prepared to open a dialogue or to strengthen the relations between it and all states without any sensitivities or complexes as long as these relations are based on mutual respect and interests and on noninterference in Egypt's internal affairs.

The paper points out that a big fuss also has been made about Egypt's conclusion of an arms deal with France, amounting to $1.2 billion as loans from the French Government. Egypt's reply was clear:

-- The negotiations on this deal, which includes Mirage planes and missiles, have been going on for 2 years, and it is unreasonable for such a big deal to be concluded during the period in which President Husni Mubarak took over the reins of government.

-- Egypt has been pursuing the policy of diversifying the sources of arms for a long time.

-- The U.S. side explained before that not all the requests of the friendly states can be met, both with regard to quantity and timing.

5. It is Egypt who for a long time has been warning against the danger of Soviet infiltration of the area. It is Egypt who has been constantly calling for bolstering the Arab states, including Egypt, the biggest economic and military power, with easy unexaggerated conditions so as to enable them to resist Soviet infiltration on the one hand and to keep the states away from the polarization operation which has been obvious in the Middle East for a long time.

6. Any rapprochement between Egypt and fraternal Arab states will in no way be at the expense of the Egyptian option for peace. The return of the Arabs to Egypt or the return of Egypt to the Arabs is a reunion of brothers in one family. The time has come for such reunion to take place on strong foundations having clear features to contribute to reaching a comprehensive and just peaceful solution and to realize a cultural, economic and social upsurge conducive to the prosperity of the Arab (nation).

As for the economic dimension, AL-AHRAM says that the Egyptian-U.S. economic talks are about to be concluded and their results are expected to be reviewed at a large meeting of Egyptian and American experts with President Husni Mubarak. The results of these talks include basic features, namely:

1. The achivement of some flexibility which Egypt has requested in channeling the funds to a certain sector and not to a specific project. This simply means directing the available funds to any project in the same sector or any project requiring urgent fund for it to be completed quickly to yield production and profit. In other words, projects near completion should not be hindered because of a shortage of funds at a time when funds are allocated for projects that still need a long time to be completed. Thus far, an agreement has been reached on applying the sector-financing principle to the electricity, local government and health sectors as well as to the private sector and technical aid.

2. The activation of projects in new towns and the promotion of the needy quarters in the cities of Cairo, Alexandria and some governorates.

3. Increasing the funding of the surplus agricultural crop which Egypt imports from America, particularly wheat and flour, from $250 million to $275 million. Also, increasing the funding of the commodity importation program from $300 to $350 [as received] to import spare parts, intermediate goods and raw materials which Egypt needs from the United States. Some $421 million also have been allocated for investment in new projects.

4. Agreement on increasing the drawing of funds which Egypt has not used. It is known that Egypt has obtained about $6 billion of which it has thus far used about $2.2 billion. Therefore, Egypt requests to draw from these funds as of the beginning of this year. This will be on the basis that if the funds presented to it this year are used 100 percent, then it can use 20 or 40 percent of the same amount as this year's from the funds that have not been used. It is worth noting that Egypt has used 104 percent of last year's allocations.

Regarding the military dimension, the paper says the U.S. administration yesterday agreed to Egypt's request that $400 million of the total U.S. allocations for military aid to Egypt be regarded as a grant. It is known that Egypt asked for $1.5 billion, including $550 million as a grant. What the U.S. administration approved is within the limits of $1.3 billion, including $400 million requested as a loan with easy terms -- a matter which is contrary to Egypt's request that the sum be regarded as a grant.

In his talks, President Mubarak insisted on Egypt's request that the $400 million be regarded as a grant and not as a loan. The paper says the U.S. administration agreed to this in principle as well as to Egypt's request for speeding up the shipment of arms. President Husni Mubarak, during his meeting with the members of the Congress and the Senate, will emphasize helping Egypt militarily to enable it to defend its security and the security of the region not only this year but until the Egyptian Armed Forces are completely developed in the next 5 years during which Egypt will at least need equipment costing $6.5-$8 billion.

TERRORIST CASE INDICTMENTS NEAR COMPLETION

PM041449 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 26 Jan 82 p 1, 4

['Isam Hashish report]

[Text] The attorney general's office has completed its investigation of the case of the terrorist organization. The attorney general, Councellor Salah ar-Rashidi will announce the bill of indictment within days.

AL-AKHBAR has learned that there will be two bills of indictment in this case: one concerning the leaders of the organization and covering 120 defendants, and the other concerning the members of the organization and covering 900 defendants.

The prosecution has completed the first bill of indictment. It covers all the defendants in the military case related to the assassination of the late leader Anwar as-Sadat. Of the 120 accused in this case, Najih Ibrahim (a distinguished doctor), who was the amir for Upper Egypt and who was in charge of the organization in Upper Egypt, is defendant number one. He was arrested some weeks after the Asyut incidents. Defendant number two is Engineer 'Abd as-Salam Faraj, the organization's official in charge of ideology. The prosecution has charged the defendants under the first bill of indictment for attempting to overthrow the regime by force; for possessing arms, ammunition and explosives and using them to foment violence; and for resisting the authorities and killing or wounding a large number of policemen and citizens, in addition to occupying a number of government departments concerned with public service; disrupting communications and creating a state of alarm in the country. Some of these charges carry the death penalty.

The investigations, which lasted more than 100 days, were supervised by Assistant Attorney General Counsellor 'Atif Zaki with the help of public attorneys Safwat 'Abbas, Raja' al-'Arabi, Sahib Hafiz and Mahir al-Jundi.

The second part of the case concerns those who became members of the organization. The attorney general's office has completed the investigation of this part of the case, except for a few final touches which will be made within 2 weeks. A bill of indictment will then be prepared listing other charges.

The investigation of this part of the case was carried out by Supreme State Security Chief Prosecutor 'Asim 'Abd al-Hamid and his Deputies Mahmud Mas'ud, Sa'id al-Bkirki, Mustafa Sa'id Hanafi, Hisham Junaynah, Hisham Saraya, Hisham Hammudah, Shawqi al-Kayid, 'Umar Khayri and Samih al-Kashif.

WEEKLY QUESTIONS NEED FOR TRIAL SECRECY

PM041453 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 30 Jan 82 p 2

[Ibrahim Sa'dah article: "Why the Secrecy?"]

[Text] The military tribunal trying the murderers of the late President Anwar as-Sadat must have had strong and national reasons for ordering the court sessions to be held in camera. It is certainly not in the national interest to reveal or expose military secrets.

The Egyptian public accepted the court's logic and is content with the few lines published by the national newspapers about the trial, giving nothing more than the dates of the court sessions, announcements of adjournment and whatever the military court allows to be published. The national newspapers have published nothing about what the defendants, the defense and the prosecution are saying. Even the dates of the court sessions and adjournments are no longer published on the first page. They are hidden on the inside pages. This is not a criticism of the newspapers because this is all they can give the reader about this serious case.

This is not the first time that absolute secrecy has been imposed in court cases. However, the trial of As-Sadat's murderers is a different matter, because the Arab newspapers, which are not banned in Egypt, are daily publishing a great many reports about the trial, citing what these papers stress was said in court. Also, many Arab radios, which are heard well in Egypt, are broadcasting what they claim to be the exact proceedings of the court sessions. They are indeed exciting and very strange proceedings, and many people have read or heard about them. We are not trying here to determine the authenticity of these reported proceedings or whether what is alleged to have been said in court really was said. We are also not requesting that the foreign news agencies, radios and press be prevented from reporting the proceedings. The court proceedings publication ban applies only to the local information media, and it is therefore the right of foreign reporters to seek information about this most important trial and an issue which aroused the interest as well as the anger of the entire world public. It would be naive to ask the world press to respect the secrecy of the trial or expect it not to publish whatever specific information and facts it may have and whatever exciting charges are made, especially if it is proved that those who have attended and actually participated in the court sessions have agreed to tell the foreign press and radio reporters what they heard and said in court.

What really puzzles me is: Why has the trial been shrouded in secrecy if some of the people who participate in it are prepared to make statements which they know in advance will be reported worldwide, but not in Egypt? Most of what has been reported so far by the foreign and Arab media about the trial is specifically attributed to lawyers defending the killers of the late leader Anwar as-Sadat. The foreign media are not requested to conceal their sources of information since these sources have agreed to be openly quoted on the court proceedings. The foreign reporters are not to be blamed for this dreadful confusion, because they have not erred but rather have done their duty and published information obtained from supposedly trustworthy sources who have agreed to be cited and who should consequently take the responsibility for doing so.

True, Lawyer 'Ismat Sayf ad-Dawlah has written to AL-AKHBAR denying what the Arab press had attributed to him about the proceedings. However, he was the only one to give such a denial. The Arab and foreign media are still publishing a great many reports attributed to the defense lawyers, but we have not heard or read any other denials of these serious and thrilling reports. What is more serious is that those who have made statements and insisted on them have not explained why they violated the court's secrecy decision.

We also have not heard that the court itself, which issued the secrecy order, has asked one single person of those who have betrayed the secrets of the court why he did not abide by the court order.

It may be said that the number of those who read Arab and foreign newspapers in Egypt is small and insignificant. It may also be said that only a few people listen to Arab radio broadcasts about the trial. I disagree. Many read what is published and hear or read about the proceedings -- which no one can say is true or false because it has been neither confirmed nor denied.

If the military court proceedings do not constitute a threat to the country's security and if they do not expose military secrets -- and it appears that they do not because everything read or heard in this country is reported by the foreign media -- then why should not the Egyptian press be permitted to publish the full, and authentic, court proceedings? At least the Egyptian press will be eager to publish the statements of the defendants, the defense, the prosecution and the court members, not just the statements of certain lawyers. Would not this put an end to the endless confusion and rumors?

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO 605

JN041636 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Feb (INA) -- During the past 24 hours, our armed forces killed 45 Iranians and destroyed various types of war weapons. Communique No 605, issued by the Armed Forces General Command, added that our forces pounded enemy concentrations in Abadan, Dezful and Mimak, killing 35. It said that the Iraqi aircraft today raided military targets in the southern sector of the battlefield, scoring direct and effective hits. It stressed that all our aircraft returned safely to base. Following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our war today enters its 18th month at a time when our people, valiant armed forces and all devout Arabs are more determined to continue the battle against the force of the wicked Khomeyni clique until it recognizes the legitimate rights of Iraq and the Arab nation. Following are the results of activities carried out in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Our forward units sighted an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the Abadan area. They pounded it with various weapons, killing 14 and destroying 1 vehicle and 4 observation posts.
B. One of our units pounded enemy positions and concentrations in the Dezful area, killing 12 and destroying 1 armored personnel carrier, 2 vehicles -- 1 of which was loaded with personnel and another with hardware -- and 1 observation post.
C. Nine killed in the Mimak area opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
D. Six were killed and one excavator was destroyed in the Shush area.
E. Three were killed and one gun was destroyed in the Sumar area.
F. One was killed and one stockpile of hardware was destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area.
G. Three vehicles and one excavator were destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area.
H. Our aircraft today raided enemy military targets in the southern sector of the battlefield, scoring direct and effective hits before returning safely to base.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 45 killed and 1 armored personnel carrier, 1 gun, 6 vehicles, 2 excavators, 5 observation posts and 1 stockpile of hardware destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Two martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One vehicle damaged.
C. This afternoon the racist Persian enemy shelled the Basra area with heavy artillery.

RAMADAN ADDRESSES VOLUNTEERS FROM 11 COUNTRIES

JN041810 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Comrade Taha Yasin Ramadan, commander in chief of the Popular Army, has conveyed the greetings, good wishes and thanks of the party and revolution leadership, headed by President Saddam Husayn, hero of pan-Arab liberation, to the fighters of the Nile, Arab Syria and autonomy sectors of the Popular Army.

Addressing fighters from our Arab people in Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia, Jordan, Palestine, Morocco, Algeria, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen as well as from our Kurdish people, Comrade Taha Yasin Ramadan expressed great pleasure at meeting with them and at their complete readiness to be honored by taking part in the battle of honor and dignity being waged by our army and people on behalf of the Arab nation against the racist Persian enemy.

He said: This example which you express here as volunteers from all Arab countries, some of whose rulers have adopted treasonous stands conflicting with our Arab people's aspirations and aims, embodies the unity of our nation in confronting its enemies.

IRAQ-CSSR COMMITTEE HOLDS MEETINGS IN BAGHDAD

CSSR Finance Minister Arrives

JN312018 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Jan 82

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jan (INA) -- CSSR Finance Minister Leopold Ler arrived in Baghdad tonight for a visit of several days. The CSSR minister will lead his country's delegation to the meetings of the Iraqi-CSSR joint committee for economic, financial and technical cooperation, which will begin here at a later date.

Ler said upon arrival that he will discuss with Iraqi officials the means to develop trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Committee Meets 1 Feb

JN011448 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Feb (INA) -- The meetings of the fourth session of the Iraqi-CSSR joint committee for economic and technical cooperation began here today. The Iraqi side was led by Hasan 'Ali, Revolution Command Council member and trade minister, and the CSSR side was headed by Finance Minister Leopold Ler. The two ministers stressed the importance of the current session and their countries' desire to develop bilateral relations to serve their interests. It was decided to form subcommittees to look after the trade, economic, industrial, scientific and technical exchange.

Ministers 'Ali and Ler held a meeting early today during which they exchanged viewpoints regarding the fourth session and the means to bolster relations between the two countries in the economic, trade and technical fields.

Ler Meets Ramadan

JN031250 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Feb 82

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received CSSR Finance Minister Leopold Ler and his delegation this morning.

Ramadan welcomed the friendly delegation and expressed satisfaction over the development of bilateral relations, which were further promoted after the 17 July revolution. He also praised the role CSSR Premier Strougal played in developing all fields of cooperation in the interest of the two peoples; pointing out the great possibilities for bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Leopold Ler conveyed the CSSR premier's greetings to Ramadan and expressed his pleasure at visiting Iraq. He also expressed his admiration for Iraq's development in all fields and praised the development of the bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation. He added that Ramadan's visit to the CSSR has contributed much to the development of bilateral relations.

The CSSR ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Tawfiq Receives Ler

JN031702 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Feb 82

[Text] Tahir Tawfiq, Revolution Command Council member and minister of trade and industry, received today CSSR Finance Minister Leopold Ler and his accompanying delegation.

The two sides discussed cooperation and ways of promoting them between the two friendly countries, particularly in the industrial field, in a manner that serves the two peoples' interests.

Tahir Tawfiq briefed the CSSR delegation on the development process in Iraq, particularly in industry.

Joint Cooperation Minutes

JN041528 Baghdad INA in English 1515 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Feb (INA) -- Iraq and Czechoslovakia signed a joint minutes for economic, scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries at the end of meetings held by the joint Iraq-Czechoslovakia committee for economic cooperation.

The minutes was signed on behalf of Iraq by Revolution Command Council member and Minister of Trade Hasan 'Ali and Leopold Ler, finance minister of Czechoslovakia, on behalf of his country.

Both the two ministers, while exchanging speeches at the signing ceremony, stressed on the common wish for further develop and consolidate the existing ties of bilteral relations and cooperation.

VICE PRESIDENT MA'RUF PAYS VISIT TO SINGAPORE

For Singapore and Baghdad reports on the visit of Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf to Singapore, including talks with Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs Sinnathamby Rajaratnam and President Devan Nair, see the Malaysia & Singapore section of the 3 February Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

UN'S URQUHART CONTINUES TALKS, MEETS 'ARAFAT

NC041811 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] UN Under Secretary General Brian Urquhart continues his talks with senior officials in Lebanon; at 1700 today, Urquhart met for the second time with Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus, who is now visiting the Republican Palace following Urquhart's talks with the Syrian officials. [as heard]

Urquhart had earlier met in Beirut with President Ilyas Sarkis and Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan; with Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus, with Defense Minister Joseph Skaff and with the commanders of the Lebanese Army. Urquhart said that he had discussed with these officials all the subjects connected with the role of the UNIFIL in the south and the difficulties preventing UNIFIL from tackling these difficulties and achieving progress.

Urquhart's meeting with Minister Butrus comes within the context of the talks which the UN official is holding with the senior officials in Lebanon concerning the Lebanese working paper on the situation in the south. This paper was submitted to the Security Council by Lebanese Chief UN Delegate Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni.

Speaker Kamil al-As'ad met at 1730 today with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and with Col Sa'd Sayil. Speaker al-As'ad is expected to have met with Urquhart by now as part of the meetings which the UN under secretary general is holding with the senior Lebanese officials.

Also within the context of the talks which Urquhart is holding in Lebanon and in the area, Urquhart met this afternoon with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. UNIFIL Commander General Callaghan, UN Coordinator General (Iqbal Akhund), and UN Official Spokesman Samir Sanbar attended the meeting. The conferees reviewed the situation in southern Lebanon in view of the Israeli military concentrations reported by the Palestinian news agency, WAFA.

WAFA added: A review was made of Israel's incessant violations of the cease-fire, as illustrated by air force sorties and cruises by Israeli gunboats.

WAFA said 'Arafat expressed his dedication to a continuing cease-fire across the Lebanese border in confirmation of its past commitments.

Tomorrow, the UN under secretary general will inspect the UNIFIL in the south. He will then leave for Tel Aviv and then Amman to complete the talks which he is holding in the area.

'Arafat Briefs Urquhart

JN041614 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1500 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met this afternoon with UN Assistant Secretary General Brian Urquhart, who is currently visiting the region. They discussed the situation in southern Lebanon in the light of the repeated Israeli threats and continuous military concentrations in southern Lebanon and northern Palestine, as well as the constant Israeli violations of the cease-fire as represented in overflights and naval patrols off the Lebanese coast. 'Arafat also briefed Urquhart on Israeli practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and the continuous escalation of its terror campaign. He also expressed the Palestinians revolution's and the PLO's concern to keep the cease-fire across the Lebanese border in force in confirmation of its previous commitments and the continuation of cooperation with UNIFIL.

The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by Fatah Central Committee members Abu Jihad [khalil al-wazir] and Abu al-Walid [Sa'd Sayil] and other Palestinian officials and officers. The United Nations delegation included General Callaghan.

CHAMBER SPEAKER MEETS PLO'S 'ARAFAT ON SOUTH

JN041829 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1745 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met with Kamil al-As'ad, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, this evening. The meeting was attended by Brother Col Sa'd Sayil, alias Abu al-Waid, Fatah Central Committee member.

During the meeting, the current Arab and international situation was reviewed. The situation in Southern Lebanon was also discussed in light of the Zionist concentrations.

FATAH CITES UN ON SOUTHERN CONCENTRATIONS

NC041155 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] In southern Lebanon, a UNIFIL spokesman has denied the reports spread by the Zionist and Phalangist information media regarding the entry of large forces of the Palestinian resistance into the UNIFIL area of operations. The UN spokesman said that a small force of the resistance has entered the area to supervise the cease-fire in the area that was the scene of armed incidents.

We note here that the situation in southern Lebanon and the relations between the PLO and UN forces were discussed at yesterday's meeting between Brothers Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and Abu al-Walid [Brig Gen Sa'd Sayil], members of the Fatah Central Committee, and the commander of UNIFIL.

PLO LEADER CONFIRMS WITHDRAWAL FROM TOWN

NC042106 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] [Chamber of Deputies] Speaker Kamil al-As'ad stated after meeting with [PLO Chairman] Yasir 'Arafat this evening that an agreement has been reached with the [Palestinian] resistance on a unified stand with regard to the question that is to be raised at the Security Council on the UN forces and the implementation of Resolution 425.

Speaker al-As'ad quoted 'Arafat as having said that the resistance has no reservations and that an agreement has been reached on not giving Israel any excuse to commit aggression [against Lebanon] and that the resistance will withdraw from Hannawiyah.

'Arafat confirmed Al-As'ad's statement, emphasizing that incidents in the south will not recur.

ABU IYAD MEETS WITH AL-MURABITUN LEADERS

JN041900 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1745 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, has met with Brother Ibrahim Qulaylat, leader of the independent Nasirite movement -- Al-Murabitun -- in the presence of Dr Samir Sabbagh and Dr Bassam al-Habbali. The talks dealt with the current situation in Lebanon and the general Arab situation. Regarding the situation in southern Lebanon, Brother Abu Iyad indicated that it has been possible to contain the consequences of the recent events there. He added: All we hope for is that the Amal movement, out of our care for it and out of its national position, will be in the joint command and joint forces, as this solves all problems and reflects the sincere trends aimed at solving all the Lebanese national problems with all their internal and Arab dimensions.

PLO MILITARY LEADER COMMENTS ON LEBANESE EVENTS

GF041225 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 2 Feb 82 p 15

[Interview granted to AR-RA'Y AL'AMM by Sa'd Sayil -- alias Abu al-Walid -- member of the Fatah Central Committee, member of the Al-'Asifah Forces Command and head of the Central Operations Room of the Palestinian resistance, in Beirut -- no date given]

[Excerpts] [Question] During his recent tour, Philip Habib conveyed the United States' interest in resolving the crisis. This view suggests extending the UNIFIL operations to the north inside Lebanese territory instead of going south toward the border and ending Israeli occupation. What does this mean from the military viewpoint?

[Answer] Before U.S. Envoy Philip Habib came to the region we heard the U.S. secretary of state say there was a U.S. peace plan that recommended three things: Preventing arms from reaching the Palestinian revolution in Lebanon, extending the area of UNIFIL responsibilities and supporting the legitimate authority in Lebanon.

Habib came to the region with these three articles as a plan for a comprehensive peace in Lebanon. In addition to these he brought with him what he termed the missile crisis in the Syrian al-Biqa'. I consider this to be an artificial crisis, because the Syrian missiles in Al-Biqa' constitute part of the Arab deterrent force It follows that these missiles constitute the minimum amount of arms an armed force must have to defend its existence while confronting Israeli planes. The missiles have no function other than this, but the Americans and Israelis refuse to accept this logic on the basis of their aggressive concept, which considers Lebanese territory and airspace to be open to the Israelis. They would not change this concept.

Hence, Habib's plan to extend the area of UNIFIL responsibilities -- that is to remove the military positions of the Palestinian revolution beyond the existing lines and thus confine them to defined and exposed regions. This is nothing but part of the Israeli enemy's plot to occupy southern Lebanon. As far as the other articles of the plan are concerned, we see that the Lebanese crisis must be resolved by the Lebanese. The United States is not deceiving and will not be able to deceive anyone that it is offering solutions to the crisis. It is only making overt attempts to worsen the situation. Following his recent tour, Habib's statement that he succeeded in achieving a cease-fire and reducing tension is mere deceit and nothing else. The essence of the U.S. plot is to create weak ministates to surround Israel and form a security belt for it.

Everything I have mentioned represented new burdens for the Palestinian revolution on all strategic, tactical and military sides. Thus, the revolution is concerned with everything that is going on and is aware of all the resulting responsibilities.

[Question] In your opinion, what are the goals of the recent U.S. press campaign against the Libyan Jamahiriya, and do you expect an armed agression against it?

[Answer] In my opinion, the American threats against Libya, which are allegedly the result of Libya's formation of a squad to assassinate American officials, are within the course of the general U.S. policy in the region. The aim of this policy is to implement what the United States calls the strategic agreement within the Arab region. It is attempting to achieve this in various ways, among which is the military way. It is attempting to terrify the Libyan leadership and force it to renounce its national and patriotic stands that are hostile to imperialism and Zionism.

We, in the Palestinian revolution, say truthfully that we are fully prepared to defend the Libyan revolution and help the Libyan people confront this aggression that is being plotted and is expected to take place. The United States must realize that Libya is not alone in the field. The Arab peoples and all friendly states stand beside it.

At the same time, we are confident that the steadfast Libyan leadership's ability to confront such attempts is very great. It has the ability to prevent the Reagan administration from implementing its plan to expose the region to its armies and fleets in order to exploit its resources.

[Question] Lebanon's political and security situation is a reflection of the policies surrounding it. Do you think the security situation could explode?

[Answer] Following the recent cease-fire, the Israeli enemy began a series of bomb attacks using various means and methods through local agents. These attacks are still going on as a part of a complete plot the Israeli enemy intends to implement against us. Despite all this we reiterate our known political stand on the Lebanese crisis by stating that the resolution of the Lebanese crisis must be Lebanese. Our stand supports political conciliation and opposes kindling the war inside Lebanon.

We adopted the same stand during the recent Lebanese war. However, we were attacked and had to defend ourselves in order to continue to perform our principal duty in struggling against the Zionist enemy and in order to regain the entire national rights of the Palestinian people.

We do hope that all parties will appreciate our stand and refrain from creating minor battles at the expense of our principal battle. This will assist the enemy in achieving its goals against our revolution, people and rights. However, through our temporary presence on Lebanese soil we do realize that some parties do not have the same concept of our presence.

NATIONAL MOVEMENT WARNS OF PHALANGIST PLOT

NC041245 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] The Lebanese National Movement has absolutely rejected the way the government is dealing with the de facto partition represented in the isolationist ghetto that has been and continues to be the product of the Phalangists' dealing with the Zionist enemy. The Movement has called on the prime minister to adopt a clear stand regarding the Phalangist ministate, which constitutes a grave danger to Lebanon's integrity, Arabism and democratic progress.

In a statement released following a meeting of its political council, the National Movement called on the nationalist forces to assume the responsibility of joint confrontation of the isolationist plan which is supported by Israel and endorsed by the United States. This can be achieved by promoting political cohesion, social development, popular organization and security in nationalist areas thus making the nationalist arena an effective contrast to the isolationist ghetto ministate and a base for the struggle to restore Lebanon's integrity, assert its Arabism and protect democracy in the country.

MINISTER REPORTS ON TUNIS INFORMATION MEETING

NC041948 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] Information Minister Michel Iddih this afternoon returned to Beirut from Tunis after having presided over the Arab information ministers conference. This conference was held under Arab League auspices in Tunis.

Information Ministry Director General Radwan Mawlawi also returned to Beirut. Mawlawi had headed the Lebanese delegation to the meetings of the Arab Information Standing Committee and had also participated in the Arab information ministers conference. Ambassador Samir Khuri, director of the expatriates desk at the Ministry of Foreign and Expatriates Affairs, also attended the conference.

It is known that the conference has endorsed a new worldwide information campaign and has pledged $800,000 for this campaign.

In a Beirut Airport arrival statement, the information minister spoke of the efforts which he had exerted and of the atmosphere which had prevailed at the conference. He said:

[Begin recording] [Question] Your Excellency the minister: How do you assess the results of the work conducted by the Arab information ministers conference which was held in Tunis?

[Answer] I believe that the conference was successful. In regard to Lebanon, the conference noted the campaign which we had launched to enlist support for the south in the past few months. The conference decided to allocate $800,000 for the second campaign for defending the south -- for a new information campaign for defending the south. This sum has been earmarked. However, it has not been raised.

As far as the expatriates are concerned, the conference passed a new resolution and reiterated its former resolution which confines contacts with the expatriates and everything connected with the expatriates conducted by the Arab League to the Foreign Ministry or to the Lebanese embassies.

[Question] What is the purpose of this?

[Answer] This was a Lebanese demand. This demand is aimed at barring the conveyance of inter-Arab differences to the countries of expatriation. We had agreed on this basic point with the Lebanese World Cultural League. In consequence, it was decided to raise the sum earmarked for Arab information from $3 to $8 million. However, it is imperative that the Arab summit conference pass a resolution to allocate and procure these funds to enable Arab information to play the role which it should play at this very difficult juncture of our history.

We told the Arabs that, at present, it is not possible for the Arabs to overcome or to face Israel militarily. However, nothing prevents the Arabs from confronting Israel in the information domain, not in the domain [as heard]. This is because the Arabs lack neither manpower nor funds. However, and regrettably, the Arabs, all the Arabs -- and at this point I blame no one in particular; we all share the responsibility -- I told the brother Arabs that I attended the Information Ministers Conference in Bizerte in 1967 in the wake of the June 1967 war and of the Khartoum conference -- the conference of the "three times no" [meaning the conference at which the Arabs told Israel that there will be no recognition, no negotiations and no peace]. A topic on the agenda of this conference called for mapping out a common Arab information strategy. Regrettably, and 15 years later, we still see the same topic on agendas; that is, laying down a common Arab strategy in the field of information. This point alone suffices to illustrate for us the state of futility of Arab information. We asked the brothers to take this point into account. Particularly that at this time Lebanon is the sole battlefield. We have become entitled to our priority rights. There can also be no doubt that the same thing applies to the Palestinian brothers.

However, we now find ourselves in the confrontation and we are the main victim. Therefore, we were very frank. I thank the members of the delegation for their assistance, particularly the Information Ministry Director General and Ambassador Shaykh Samir Khuri for having raised our issues, for having prepared the files and for having attended the preparatory meetings. I hope that all the brother Arabs realize the seriousness of the situation which we are now facing. [end recording]

LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY REVIEWS SOVIET VISIT

PM050935 Beirut AS-SAFIR in Arabic 29 Jan 82 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Communist Party Issues Statement on CPSU Delegation's Visit"]

[Text] The Lebanese Communist Party Central Committee issued a statement yesterday on the visit of the CPSU Central Committee delegation to Lebanon from 21 to 27 January. The CPSU delegation was headed by Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Section, and included as members Yuriy Gryadunov, deputy chief of the Middle East Sector of the CPSU Central Committee International Section, and (Vyatislav Manozof).

The statement says that Lebanese Communist Party Secretary General George Hawi received and held talks with the Soviet delegation on various issues of mutual interest. It adds: The Soviet delegation also held extensive talks with a Lebanese Communist Party Central Committee delegation headed by Politburo member Nadim 'Abd as-Samad. "A spirit of friendship and comradeship pervaded the talks. The views of the two sides were identical in their assessment of the dangers resulting from the policies of the imperialist powers, especially the United States, in relation to the causes of world peace, a just peace in the region and the preservation of Lebanon's unity, independence, Arabism and democratic development, as well as their assessment of the strong and widespread resistance to these policies in all domains and the need to further develop this resistance."

The statement adds: "The Soviet delegation reaffirmed the Soviet Union's support for the Arab people's struggle against the Camp David line as well as their struggle for a just settlement in the region ensuring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. It also reaffirmed support for the Lebanese national struggle against U.S., Israeli and reactionary plots. The Lebanese Communist Party delegation explained current Lebanese developments preceding the presidential elections and opposition to the isolationist plan supported by Israel and the United States, with emphasis on the party's tasks within the framework of this confrontation."

The statement further says: The Lebanese Communist Party reaffirmed that it highly appreciates the Soviet Union's consistent and principled policies in defense of world peace and in support of a just settlement in the region based on complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and guaranteeing the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to repatriation and their right to set up their own national state on their soil under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

In conclusion the statement lists the meetings and contacts held by the Soviet delegation "for political consultation on the most important international, Middle East and Lebanese developments." These included meetings with President Ilyas Sarkis; Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan; Walid Junblatt, chairman of the Central Political Council of the National Movement; PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat; George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; and members of the Central Political Council of the National Movement.

FOREIGN MINISTRY RECEIVES MOROCCAN ENVOY, OTHERS

NC041914 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] At the Foreign Ministry, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus has received the ambassador of South Korea to Lebanon and, subsequently, the Yemeni Arab Republic charge d'affaires, who took note of the approaching date of his departure from Lebanon.

Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Kisrawan Labaki received the ambassador of the FRG. The ambassador later said that the conversation had touched on matters of a political nature. He denied having conveyed any information from his government on the situation in southern Lebanon.

Afterward, Ambassador Labaki received the new Moroccan ambassador to Lebanon, Mohamed at-Tahar Bennani, who said that he had made a courtesy call on Ambassador Labaki. He said: The conversation delat with the question of the bomb which exploded in the garden of the Moroccan Embassy last Sunday and the security means which the government can possibly ensure for the embassy.

In regard to King Hassan II's proposal on Morocco's participation in the Arab Deterrent Forces, Ambassador BEnnani said that he had not dealt with this subject, which should be decided at Arab summit conferences. The Moroccan ambassador also denied that he is aware of any Jordanian-Moroccan move to tackle the Lebanese crisis.

LEBANESE PAPER INTERVIEWS FOREIGN MINISTER

PM041557 Beirut AN-NAHAR in Arabic 2 Feb 82 pp 1, 10

[Interview granted by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to Rafiq Khalil al-Ma'luf in New York -- date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] What comes after the extraordinary UN General Assembly meeting with regard to Israel's decision to annex the Syrian Golan Heights?

[Answer] In fact we are engaged in a battle which is part of the all-out battle against Israel. We began this battle at the United Nations through contacts with all the powers, international blocs and world countries. When the General Assembly meetings are over -- and we are confident of positive and good resolutions with regard to the Israeli decision and the question of the Arab-Israeli conflict -- we will go to the Arab foreign ministers meeting to discuss the various aspects of the matter from the standpoint of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

[Question] Does Syria feel the Arabs have not done enough with respect to international action against the decision to annex the Golan?

[Answer] We can say there is real Arab solidarity with Syria. This solidarity was evident in the various contacts which almost all the Arab countries carried out to rally international support for Syria against the Israeli enemy. We are satisfied with the Arab stand on the annexation question.

[Question] The Arab situation is passing through a difficult stage because of the continuing Arab differences. Do you expect any improvement in relations among these countries, particularly among Syria, Iraq and Jordan?

[Answer] There is no doubt the Arab situation is regrettable and disappointing as a result of the present divisions. This situation is a natural result of most of the Arab countries' failing to pursue the correct line in our conflict in the area -- the Arab-Israeli conflict. This situation came after the October war. Before and during the war there was a healthy Arab solidarity: The Arabs stood as one bloc and emerged as an influential world power.

We believe the Israeli enemy benefits a lot from this situation. Therefore, we in Syria constantly pursue our basic policy adopted after the 16 October 1970 movement (the coming of Al-Asad to power), which is based on strengthening Arab solidarity against the Israeli enemy. Naturally, we believe there is a need for patient and earnest work to rectify the Arab situation and to move on to a healthier and better situation. We believe this can be achieved when everybody realizes that the principal enemy threatening the Arab nation both in the East and the West is the Zionist entity, which commits continuous aggression not only against Syria or the countries neighboring Palestine but also against the whole Arab nation. We must be patient and persevering in order to improve the Arab situation and the conditions of joint Arab action.

[Question] It was said during your Gulf visit that Syria called for the Gulf to be neutral in relation to the Iraq-Iran conflict. Can you confirm this?

[Answer] This is the first time I have heard such a thing. But there was a general feeling among our brothers in the Gulf that there is an unnatural situation in the Gulf which must be dealt with, and that the area must be kept free of international or local conflicts so that the area can devote itself to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The question is not one of neutralizing the area but of how to spare the area the evils of conflicts and disputes that exhaust our region and from which only our enemies benefit.

[Question] How do you evaluate your recent visit to the Soviet Union? Did you ask the Soviet leaders for anything specific in light of Israel's decision to annex the Golan?

[Answer] The visit was within the framework of consultations between the two countries in light of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between them. I can say that the visit was good from our viewpoint.

[Question] There has been much talk about the establishment of strategic cooperation between Syria and the Soviet Union as a counter and a parallel to the strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel. Is this correct?

[Answer] I believe the Arabs, in order to deter aggression, achieve their national objectives and defend their national existence, must establish a balance in the area. This requires three things: first, a strong Syria; second, good and strong Arab solidarity with Syria; and third, good and strong relations between the Arabs and the Soviet Union. These things are required to achieve a balance and to face the situation existing on the other side, namely the situation of a strong Israel backed by world Zionism, which is spread throughout the world and is also backed by strong and solid relations with the United States.

[Question] It was observed that your speech contained a strong attack on the United States and an attempt to remind it of its interests in the Arab world. How do you see the future of U.S.-Syrian and U.S.-Arab relations in particular following the Reagan administration's use of the veto at the Security Council?

[Answer] We were not surprised by the use of veto at the Security Council. It would have been a surprise if the United had not used it. We know very well the nature of relations between the United States and Israel and the great influence the Zionist movement has on U.S. decisions, so could not imagine in the present circumstances the possibility of a U.S. decision independent of the Israeli decision, and we were not surprised. Of course, we would have liked the United States to pursue a policy independent of Israeli policy. There is no doubt that, if such a thing existed, then there would have been the opportunity for normal U.S.-Arab relations and greater stability. There are now some normal relations or mutual interests between the United States and some Arab countries. We believe the future of Arab-U.S. relations will not be bright as long as the U.S. strategy in the Middle East is based on securing the biggest possible support for Israel, so as to be able to launch the broadest possible attacks on the Arab nation. U.S. interests in the Arab world cannot continue while U.S. support and backing for Israel against it is continuing. This is a wrong equation, and it cannot continue. There is no doubt that the conflict movement in the area and in the world and the development of the situation will eventually lead the United States into a tight corner, in which case the Americans will have to choose between preserving their interests in the area and destroying them, because it is unimaginable that this situation can continue. The United States is taking the wealth of this area, has strategic control over it, and its basic interests in the area lie with the Arab bloc, and yet at the same time, the Arabs are paying the price with more sufferings, blood and destruction.

[Question] Some Arab officials have said that oil is no longer a weapon. What is your view on Arab oil as a weapon?

[Answer] In fact the Arab nation has several weapons, but these weapons will remain of limited effectiveness as long as the Arab nation does not possess the principal weapon, which is military strength. Oil would be effective to the extent that we were strong and be ineffective insofar as we lacked military strength. Therefore we cannot say we have a particular weapon or that oil or money can liberate the Arab territories or restore the Palestinian Arab people's rights in Palestine.

[Question] Can you comment on the recent rumors about certain events or a coup attempt in Syria?

[Answer] Those who expect events or changes in Syria are living on a different planet. Syria is the most stable country in the area, and the nationalist progressive regime in Syria is the area's most stable and firm regime, because it is based on a broad popular base and a solid popular and political organization as well as on committed armed forces and determination by our people to confront the danger threatening them, foremost of which is the Israeli danger. Those who base their calculations on disturbances occurring in Syria remain out of touch with reality and, as I said, are living on a different planet.

[Question] So, is there any truth to these rumors?

[Answer] Anybody can go to Syria and see for himself the strength of the situation. In the past, Syria was the target of several conspiracies and paid with the lives of hundreds of its sons as a price for these conspiracies. What do we see today? We see today a Syria that is stronger and more determined in pursuing its nationalist policy, because that is the fate and destiny of Syria.

[Question] How do you view Egypt after As-Sadat -- Mubarak's Egypt? Do you see any possibility of Egypt's returning to the Arabs?

[Answer] Mubarak's Egypt is As-Sadat's Egypt but cut to suit Mubarak's shape. Mubarak's Egypt is the Egypt of Camp David, the Egypt which As-Sadat isolated from the Arab nation and which is now allied with Israel. And here I do not mean the Egypt that we love but the Egyptian regime. Therefore, we absolutely cannot base our calculations on the assumption that Husni Mubarak's Egypt or Husni Mubarak's regime constitute a positive element, because Husni Mubarak has often declared that he is continuing with Camp David and with his commitment to Israel and the implementation of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty. In case of an Israeli attack on any Arab country he will not take part with that country in repelling the attack. So what is new about Egypt? The Egypt which we would consider as having returned to the Arab fold would be one which had shaken off the dirt of Camp David, liberated itself from the commitments of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty and freed itself from the new Israeli shackle in which the treaty has put it. We would then say that Egypt has restored its position. But now Egypt is under Israeli occupation. It is true that Egypt will recover the Sinai in April, but it will lose what is more important than the Sinai, which is its sovereignty over Egypt.

Where is Egypt's sovereignty after the treaty and after recovering the Sinai, if it cannot send forces to the Sinai and cannot issue a statement against Israel? Egypt has deleted from school textbooks all mention of Israel and the Jews and banned the radio and television from transmitting recitals of Koranic verses that speak about the Jews. If the foreign minister makes a statement that does not please Israel, the latter will the following day submit a protest and consider the statement contrary to Camp David.

Naturally our people in Egypt will continue their struggle until they regain their freedom and rid themselves of all the commitments that As-Sadat imposed on them.

JORDAN, IRAQ 'TOOLS', WEAKEN ARAB NATION

JN041135 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0835 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] Damascus, 4 Feb (SANA) -- The newspaper AL-BA'TH today says: Washington is continuing to wager on other hireling tools to further weaken the Arab nation in order to give every opportunity to the Zionist enemy to implement its objectives and expansionist designs in the region. Those who work to intensify peripheral battles and to move the battle away from the main arena, as the Jordanian and Iraqi regimes are doing, fall under these U.S. wagers.

Under the headline "The Development of the Confrontation Method," AL-BA'TH comments: It has been proved that Washington wants to see two faces in the region: the face of an agent and the face of Israel. Any move by these U.S. tools in the Arab arena is in fact meant to beautify the ugly U.S. face. Also these suspicious efforts will be in favor of U.S. wishes and consequently, in favor of Israel regardless of how they may appear.

The paper explains that these tools have become exposed to the Arab masses and to the steadfast, progressive, national and pan-Arab forces. It has become incumbent upon these forces to use special methods to deal with these tools similar to the methods used to deal with the U.S. and Zionist people, namely, by direct, serious and clear confrontation.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Our nation is passing through a situation in which logic dictates that we define the relations and landmarks of our steps. The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's tenacious call for pursuing the logical method in dealing with all hireling tools can today change into a daily task for all the Arab strugglers in order to achieve a better future and a unified, progressive and free Arab homeland where imperialism and Zionism do not exist.

HUNGARIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GARAI ARRIVES

JN031001 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 3 Feb 82

[Text] Robert Garai, Hungarian deputy minister of foreign affairs, arrived here today on a 3-day visit to Syria during which he will hold talks with Syrian officials on bilateral relations and the current international situation.

Talks Begin

JN031510 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1345 GMT 3 Feb 82

[Text] Damascus, 3 Feb (SANA) -- Talks were held here at noon today between Syria's Assistant Foreign Minister Nasir Qad'durah and Hungary's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Robert Garai. The talks were attended on the Syrian side by Jabir al-Kufari, director of the Eastern European Department, and on the Hungarian side by Karoly (Zikin), Middle East Department director.

During the meeting, international issues of mutual concern were reviewed, particularly the situation in the Middle East and the Israeli decision to annex the Golan. The Hungarian side condemned Israel's decision, stressing its full support for Syria in all fields to restore its rights. The talks will be resumed tomorrow morning.

Talks Conclude

JN041154 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] The Syrian-Hungarian talks were concluded here today. The two sides were headed by the two deputy foreign ministers.

During the last session, the two sides reviewed the issues concerning the Middle East and the existing relations between the two friendly countries as well as the means to promote these relations.

POLITICAL CIRCLES REACT TO MUBARAK U.S. REMARKS

TA041424 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] This afternoon Jerusalem political circles reacted with reservation toward Egyptian President Mubarak's remarks in Washington calling for aid to the Palestinians so they can achieve self-determination. It was emphasized in Jerusalem that self-determination is nothing but a cover for the establishment of a Palestinian state and it is no coincidence that the Camp David accords do not mention this term.

Our political correspondent has learned that the Egyptian president's statement totally contradicts the Camp David agreements and this is another in a series of Egyptian statements that has recently proved a hardening in Egypt's stance. The circles said that these declarations are an obstacle to achieving a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East in the near future. Nevertheless, the political circles stressed, Israel also took note of the Egyptian president's announcement that Egypt is committed to the peace process.

Further Details

TA041554 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Report by political correspondent Gad Becker -- recorded]

[Text] Husni Mubarak's firm remarks in Washington on the Palestinian issue did not come as an earth-shaking surprise. They well integrate into what seems a line of aggravation in Egypt's stand regarding all aspects of the Palestinian issue alongside continued declarations of pursuit of the peace process. Israeli political circles view Mubarak's call for self-determination for the Palestinians as more evidence of the poor chance of achieving any agreement on autonomy before the completion of the Sinai withdrawal. Incidentally, some of the formulas raised by Mubarak in Washington bear the clear mark of his close assistant Usamah al-Baz who is known for his stiff stand on relations with Israel and the Palestinian issue.

How does the United States react? This is unclear as yet. Our representatives in Washington have not yet been updated on the contents of the talks with Mubarak. For the time being everyone is waiting for their outcome. The official-level autonomy talks, for instance, have been frozen. It is not also known when exactly Mubarak will arrive in Israel. Answers to all questions will emerge in the coming days. Mubarak, it is then said in Jerusalem, has also arrived in Washington to prove to the Arab world that he is not selling the Palestinian issue in return for the [rest of the] Sinai lands he will soon receive. Thus he reiterates formulas we have in fact heard since As-Sadat's speech in the Knesset in 1977 but in a harsher and sharper tone. For the time being Israel is refraining from reacting to the declarations officially and sharply, perhaps -- as a senior Israeli official put it -- to prevent a race of mutual accusations and increasing suspiciousness in these pre-April days.

BEGIN DISCUSSES SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL IN U.S.

TA050751 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 5 Feb 82

[Text] In his first media interview since being injured, Prime Minister Menahem Begin flatly rejects the assertion alleging that Israel's international status has, as it were, worsened and that it is today more isolated among the nations than ever before.

He emphasizes, in this regard, the growing sympathy toward Israel in the Christian movements in the United States, as well as in Europe. Following is a passage from the prime minister's talk:

[Begin Begin recording] Who is that person for whom everything looks gloomy? Who is blind and claims that Israel is isolated? There is not and never was such a situation even in fiction. Israel is not isolated. Israel has numerous friends -- powerful and influential ones all over the world. The signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt has even further strengthened and expanded this friendship among the world's nations. The same is true regarding our pledge to grant autonomy -- autonomy, and not a Palestenian state -- to Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District.

This friendship [with Egypt] is most valuable to us, and we are fostering it every day. Friendship is like a lush garden; it has to be cared for with much love and constant attention. And if we treat it this way, our friends' love of Israel will stand any test. The truth is that this friendship has already stood the test in recent years, and we all know that our friends supported us without fear and with a great deal of strength.

In times to come, that friendship is also bound to affect policy. As a matter of fact, it has already done so. Former U.S. President Carter told me more than once: the government of the United States is committed to support Israel, as this is the desire of our people. I mean, so he told me, not just the Jews in our country, but also the many Christians. They keep approaching me; it is clear to me that they are staunch supporters of Israel. There is no doubt that President Reagan knows this fact as well. And Europe's turn is yet to come. [end recording]

Prime Minister Menahem Begin was speaking with Voice of Israel correspondent Rut Baqi.

COMMENTARY, INTERVIEW ON ARENS APPOINTMENT

TA041527 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Feb 82 p 9

[Amnon Barzilay commentary: "The Seventh Ambassador in Washington"]

[Text] Prof Moshe Arens succeeded in uniting the coalition and the opposition. It transpired, quite strangely and surprisingly, that both alignment doves and Likud hawks agree about the appointment of Arens as Israel's ambassador to the United States. His hawkishness notwithstanding and despite the fact that he had voted against the Camp David accords and against the peace treaty with Egypt, Arens is leaving for the United States with a feeling that the opposition also views his selection as ambassador as a good decision. To wit: the Knesset Alignment faction saw no call to raise the assertion that Aren's appointment is political. The Foreign Ministry's Employees' Committee, whose concern is the interests of the ministry's employees, did not protest or dare to rebel either. The expectations that accompany Arens' trip to Washington recall to mind the expectations that accompanied Yitzhaq Rabin to Washington 14 years ago and if there is any regret in Jerusalem's political community about Arens's appointment, it stems from the fact that he has been forced to resign from the Knesset and from his duties as chairman of the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee.

Since he accepted Foreign Minister Shamir's offer to become ambassador, Arens had to defend himself against two contentions: one, why did he agree to serve as ambassador, whereas he rejected the post of defense minister after 'Ezer Weizman's resignation; and secondly, how can a person who opposed the Camp David accords serve as ambassador to the United States and represent and explain Israel's policy when the "hottest" subject in the coming days will be the establishment of autonomy in Judaea and Samaria.

"I saw that if I joined the Cabinet as a defense minister, I would have to conduct a policy that is opposed to my views," answers Arens, "or act contrary to the Cabinet's policy. Both these options are wrong. Had I accepted the offer to serve as defense minister, it may be assumed that I would have served in that post also today. I can imagine, for example, that the subject of the Lavi aricraft would have been airborne a long time ago. But I do not regret not being defense minister, as I wouldn't like to deal with the evacuation of Yamit."

Question: How is the situation of an ambassador more comfortable?

Answer: "An ambassador has to defend the positions of the government, and persuade the U.S. administration to support them, or at least not to oppose our policy. The efforts in Washington will be to persuade them that we cannot agree to further concessions. And when I am asked, how can I, a Camp David accord opponent, be appointed ambassador, my answer is: I have no problem in representing the government credibly and persuasively."

Question: What about your conscience?

Answer: "My conscience is clean. They will pressure us to make withdrawals in Judaea, Samaria and on the Golan Heights, and for these problems we shall have to seek answers in the near future. I have no doubt I can fulfill the task."

Question: That is to say, your appointment as ambassador in Washington might augur a more intransigent Israeli policy after the Sinai withdrawal?

Answer: "The reason for their wanting me to become ambassador was, perhaps, that I would be able to perform well, and represent the positions of Israel. The Likud has a man who will do it well. The second component: Both Prime Minister Begin and Foreign Minister Shamir do not expect our differences of opinion recording the Camp David and peace agreements to prevail also when I am ambassador in the United States."

Question: It is believed that your positions are nearer those of Prof Yuval Ne'eman [of Tehiya] than of Begin or Shamir.

Answer: "I tend to regard myself as quite a pragmatic person, and hence I try to avoid definitions. Before 1978 I would have told you that I identified almost completely with Menahem Begin's policy line. Even today I do not see great differences between myself and the prime minister, the foreign minister or the defense minister. Our motto is, no more concessions."

Question: What meaning then should be accorded to your appointment as ambassador?

Answer: "There is no substantial difference between my appointment and the appointment of other ambassador. Ambassadors are usually dispatched to represent the policy line of the ruling government. There was reason for wondering in the United States, because the two former ambassadors (Simha Dinitz and Efrayim 'Evron -- A.B.) were officials from the previous administration. I differ from them in that I am a political person, which will strengthen me as ambassador. I believe one element contributing to an ambassador's success is the feeling of the U.S. administration that it has someone to talk with, that the ambassador is not merely a channel for transmitting information, but can also persuade and correctly extimate developments in a country. I, as a political person, have quite close relations with people who are at the head of Israel's Government. To some extent, this was not the case during the last 5 years. The ambassadors served merely as information transmitting mailmen."

Question: Is your appointment meant to serve as guidance for other political appointments of ambassadors?

Answer: "I agree with the principle that used to be a norm during the Alignment rule. The Foreign Ministry should appoint professionals on the basis of qualifications, leaving a certain percentage of the appointments to the consideration of the foreign minister. There mustn't be a politization of the Foreign Ministry, liable to harm the important professional component of the ministry."

Question: Which ambassadors should be appointed to West European capitals, for example?

Answer: The key posts in the foreign service are in the United States, Paris, Bonn, London and Tokyo. Most of these places have ambassadors who are not known to oppose the government policy, even though they are not Likud members. Should it transpire that some of them are taking exception to the government's policy, then we have a problem on our hands. I do not think that such is the case today."

Arens's political rise to power was a very fast one. He was first elected to the Knesset in December 1973, when he held 32nd place on the Likud list. In the last elections he was No 14, but his placement does not indicate the success he enjoyed in the movement which placed him as seventh on the Knesset list. Despite his American accent, Arens was not born in the United States. He was born in Lithuania at the end of 1925 and emigrated to the United States with his family at the age of 14. He got his higher education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology at first and in 1944 was conscripted into the U.S. Army and took part in World War II. He also served as commissioner of Betar [the revisionist youth movement] in the United States. In 1948 he emigrated to Israel, but returned to Israel as an aeronautics engineer. At first he lectured at the Haifa Technion and, at the beginning of 1961, he worked in the Aviation Industry as deputy director general for engineering. He was, among other things, responsible for the development of the 'Arava plane. For his scientific work he was awarded Israel's security prize.

Professor Arens went through some embarrassment because of his statement about the Saudi peace plan, while he was heading the Knesset publicity delegation in the United States. Arens told the U.S. media at that time that the seventh point in the plan, which mentions the recognition of the right of Middle East nations to live in peace, constitutes a step forward. Arens did not renege on that statement, and neither did he try to evade it. But the entire plan is, in his view, far from reflecting a serious change in the Saudi approach to Israel.

The new ambassador in the United States finds, on the other hand, substantial changes in the basic attitudes towards Israel of the Reagan administration as compared to Carter's administration. "Carter had an ideological approach to solving the Palestinian problem," says Arens. "His approach was based on the Brookings report: to build a national home for the Palestinian people. He felt an almost ideological commitment. I can see no such signs with Reagan. His is a more pragmatic approach to the Middle East. The U.S. relationship with the Middle East is viewed in the context of the East-West confrontation. Moreover, during the election campaign, in regard to Israel, Reagan expressed himself in a manner that is not too far from the positions of the Likud. He spoke about Jordan as a Palestinian state. His fundamental approach is much more positive than the Carter approach."

Question: What about the sanctions that the United States is imposing on Israel?

Answer: "True. Carter was reluctant to use pressure against Israel. Reagan, as an imperial president, regards the United States as a power and deduces therefrom rules of behavior. The punitive steps against Israel came as a consequence."

Question: Cannot the ideological stand of the former administration pop up after the Sinai withdrawal?

Answer: "No. Present U.S. policy reflects Reagan's fundamental positions toward Israel. The argument between Israel and the United States is in the sphere of tactical issues, which include U.S. relations with Saudi Arabia."

Question: Aren't you expecting increased U.S. pressure on Israel after the Sinai withdrawal?

Answer: "I cannot know what will happen after April. No one can foresee the future. One has to construct a range of scenarios and include everything that may happen."

Question: Aren't you afraid that U.S. policy is leading toward a hardening of relations with Israel?

Answer: "Definitely not. In 1948, when Israel was fighting for its very survival, there was an American embargo on Israel. Also after the 6-Day War an embargo was imposed, and the United States came out with the Roger's plan. Afterwards, negotiations were conducted between the United States and the Soviet Union on the future of the Middle East. In my opinion, the trend is leading toward closer relations between Israel and the United States. Israel has become an ally of the United States and is viewed as such there. The two countries have similar interests in three fundamental spheres: the checking of Soviet penetration; the prevention of war and an attempt to bring about peace; and the safeguarding of supplies of oil to the West."

Question: What then are the reasons for the differences of opinion between Israel and the United States:

Answer: "The argument is around the question of how to advance these interests. The situation looks different in the two countries; and we have something to contribute to advancing these interests. We are one of the stronger countries in the Western World. The IDF is, in effect, no less strong than the armies of NATO; in experience, in its professional and military abilities, as well as in its motivation. The Israeli Air Force is better than the RAF, not only in size and experience, but also in the quality of its aircraft."

Question: As one who is known to oppose the Sinai withdrawal, can you conceive of a possibility that the evacuation will not be implemented?

Answer: "An Egyptian violation of the peace treaty can prevent the evacuation."

Question: What kind of violation?

Answer: "I do not think one has to define it in advance, but clearly in such an event Israel would be freed of any obligation. The evacuation will be painful. I believe ever since World War II no farmer should have been removed from his land, nor do I think that there is a democratic country in the world that can do such a thing."

Question: And after the evacuation, do you expect a change in Egypt's position toward Israel?

Answer: "I assume nothing will happen on 27 April 1982. Even if there is a deterioration in Egyptian-Israel relations, it will not occur in 1 day; that process would take some time."

Question: Do you see a difference between the regime of As-Sadat and that of Husni Mubarak?

Answer: "There is undoubtedly a difference. There is a process of De-As-Sadatization in Egypt. This is a return to An-Nasir's policy or a proximity to it. There is no doubt that Mubarak is inclined to pan-Arabism.

As far as I can understand what he is doing, Mubarak wants to be at peace with everybody, including Israel, Libya and Syria, when his chief motivation is to stabilize his rule. Clearly, after the evacuation Mubarak will be subjected to pressures to lower the profile of Egyptian-Israeli relations. He has an opposition in Egypt that will demand it.

Question: Will not your trip to Washington harm your political career?

Answer: "I keep feeling that my political activity is a kind of leave without pay from my function of an aeronautics engineer. Abba Eban told me I would be Israel's seventh ambassador in Washington, and every one served there 5 years on the average. One thing I know: I am going to lower that average."

COMMENTARY: ISRAEL'S DILEMMA OVER LEBANON

TA050918 Jerusalem POST in English 5 Feb 82 p 14

[Hirsh Goodman commentary: "No-Win Position"]

[Text] One can understand, and sympathize with, the reaction of the settlers in the north last week, when they expressed their opposition to any military action against the terrorist in Lebanon following the Fatah incident near Mehola. These people, whose children have grown up in air-raid shelters, and who live with the constant fear of being subjected to yet another salvo of indiscriminate rocketry, have since last June enjoyed a longforgotten tranquillity. They want nothing to jeopardize the "peace," nothing to end the respite which has made life livable again along Israel's northern frontier.

But there is a problem, and it lies in the differences of perception between the people living in the area and the generals in the army about the nature of the threat from the terrorists. As long as the cease-fire is being adhered to along the norhtern front, the inhabitants of the area regard the threat to them as remote. For the generals, all the time the cease-fire is used by the terrorists to re-arm, re-train, re-organize and re-establish themselves, the threat is becoming more real and more serious.

There was never a problem of national consensus about the way to deal with the terrorists when this meant a response to some clear act of terror. In fact, the only signs of national disunity appeared when the pundits -- perhaps including this writer -- claimed that the response was too slow.

And because of the escalation of terror incidents, coupled with ever-shriller cries about government inaction, the government changed its policy to a pre-emptive one. Israel, it was announced in the clearest terms, would no longer wait for the terrorists to strike: The IDF would take the initiative. Get to the terrorists before they can reach the border and destroy their offensive capability -- that became government policy. And the policy bore fruit -- for a while, anyway.

But then, last June, for reasons which had little if anything to do with the situation along the northern front, which was relatively quiet, Israel initiated a series of strikes against targets in Lebanon which escalated to a point which made American intervention inevitable. A cease-fire was negotiated, if not directly with the PLO then certainly including the PLO, putting a stopper on Israel's policy of pre-emption. Moreover, the government was at such pains to explain that it had not struck a deal with the "so-called-PLO," but only with Lebanon (whatever that may mean) that it precluded virtually any action at all against the source of terrorism no matter where it manifested itself.

This has put Israel in a quandary. The cease-fire was negotiated by the U.S. How can the government now handle a problem like the one that develped out of the Mehola incident without discrediting itself with the Americans, without damaging its credibility at home, and without turning what used to be a conflict of a more or less regional nature into an international one?

And as for the people of the north, how could the government justify turning their backyards into a battlefield for reasons of national security that do not directly concern them, or at least are as remote from them as the problmes of the north are from the day-to-day existence of the residents of Tel Aviv.

Israel is in a terrible bind. It is damned if it acts, and damned if it doesn't. Enmeshed in a dilemma and thus immobilized, the government can only stand by and watch as the terrorists grow stronger and rebuild the infrastructure so painstakingly destroyed just a few months ago -- destroyed at a tremendous cost financially and in terms of Israel's international image, not to mention the loss of life.

In pure military terms -- and those seem to be the terms governing the thought process not only of the general staff, but of the minister of defence and some of his Cabinet colleagues -- there could be no better time for dealing with the terrorists in Lebanon. Putting aside the weather factor for the moment, all the cards are on Israel's side. The PLO is in internal disarray, there are still 2 months before the Siani is handed back, thus limiting Egyptian and American reaction, Syria is still deploying in the Al-Biq'a region missiles whose destruction would be an added blow to the PLO, Syria, with its internal problems, and its unprecedented isolation in the Arab world would be unable to react. Jordan, now physically committed to the Iran-Iraq conflict in opposition to Syria would most probably quietly applaud an addition to the Syrian-PLO problem. Saudi Arabia would heave a sigh of relief at the spiking of the Syrians' and terrorists' guns, which at present could be turned against Saudi interests almost at will. The Europeans would temper their criticism given the current sensitivity of relations over the participation of some of their number in the Sinai multinational force. And perhaps a lightning strike with lightning results would not be all that bad for the government's image (and even for national unity) at this point, as a counter to the picture of Cabinet dissension, and national quibbling over issues such as the budget and Yamit.

But for every one of those arguments a counterargument can be produced, and it would seem to be the latter which, so far at least, have carried the day.

It is no secret that a few weeks ago a planned action in Lebanon was aborted because of the opposition of several ministers whom the general public usually regards as weak and indecisive. They are backed by crystal-clear American messages that any Israeli action in Lebanon would aggravate an already tense bi-lateral relationship. They were fortified, too, by the apparent logic of the argument that is would be imprudent to put Egypt on the spot just when we are trying to settle a delicate problem in border delineation in Rafah and near Elat, whose solution will necessarily involve Egyptian concessions.

Another arguement in their favour was that action in the Lebanon against the Syrians and the PLO would have limited military advantages, but would serve to unite a fragmented Arab world behind Syria, and reconsolidate the PLO.

The effect on the government's attempts to cut spending by trimming the defence budget would be horrendous, thus increasing its inability to solve social and educational problems, and the fanatics behind the stop the withdrawal movement would usurp the IDF's and the nation's preoccupation with the north to entrench themselves even more strongly.

To top it all, the dissident ministers had on their side the iron-clad claim that the government could given no legitimate reason for any military action unless the terrorists actually violated the northern frontier.

So against all the arguments in favour of intervention, there are equally good argumemts precluding pre-emptive or even responsive action.

Because of this, the signals being received by the general public are confused. Those charged with reporting on national security are reflecting accurately major streams of contrapuntal government thought on an issue of cardinal importance. One newspaper's headlines will intimate (for it cannot be stated clearly) that war is in the offing and that this is not altogether a bad thing; another's will reflect Israel's inviolate intention of abiding by the cease-fire as long as the Lebanese front remains quiet.

But the PLO is not going to take a chance on which paper proves to be correct in the long run. They must work on worst-case probability if they are to limit the impact of a potential strike. Thus, while Israel is debating and trying to unravel the knot it is tied in, the terrorists continue to take precautions. They are bolstering their defences, acquiring more and better weapons, redeploying their guns and units, and concentrating on their coastal and anti-aircraft defences. This makes Israel's dilemma all the more difficult, and, in consequence, the urgency and intensity of the Cabinet debate more acute.

This was especially evident over the past week, when the Mehola incident gave the issue renewed topicality. There was not doubt in anyone's mind that certain ministers -- most blatantly Defence Minister Sharon, who forced the chief of staff and several of his colleagues into a press conference designed to heighten rather than allay tension -- were preparing ground for an Israeli strike. The dramatic change of tone in statements and actions towards mid-week is indicative of the proportions of a debate which has become so confusing for Israel, and so advantageous for the PLO.

INTER-AFRICAN SOCIALIST MOVEMENT MEETS 3 FEB

AB032139 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 3 Feb 82

[Excerpts] The head of state this morning went to the international exchange center where he attended the solemn opening session of the general assembly of the Inter-African Socialist Movement.

This evening the head of state toasted participants to the meeting of the general assembly of the Inter-African Socialist Movement.

He noted that since the consultative meeting in Tunis followed by the meeting in Fes, the Inter-African Socialist Movement has already, with only two or three sessions, asserted itself, as President Abdou Diouf rightly said, as one of the greatest political movements in Africa.

[Begin recording] It is an integral part of the universal socialist movement -- the same party which proclaims its specificity, its legitimacy and its dignity. We thereby want to affirm the African people's right to invent, for themselves and by themselves, their kind of society.

It is surely in this way that it will be possible to enrich universal socialist thought and be faithful to it, for it is true that one cannot be faithful to others without remaining faithful to what one holds to be true.

It is worth recalling that socialism is not a dogma; it is a method or as the Marxist philosopher Roger Garadi would say, a methodology of an historic initiative. Therefore, it has the right to be different, to take initiatives and to possess the power which all people have to invent their own historic path according to definite conditions peculiar to them. [end recording]

Resolution Adopted

AB042021 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] The general assembly of the Inter-African Socialist Movement ended at the international conference center today. At the end of the meeting, a final resolution was adopted, a resolution on Namibia and South Africa.

Also after the meeting, President Leopold Sedar Senghor, chairman of the Inter-African Socialist Movement, held a press conference.

ALGERIA

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON ZIMBABWEAN MINISTER'S VISIT

PM041525 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 24 Jan 82 p 4

[APS report]

[Text] Algiers -- Following a visit to Algiers by Zimbabwean Industry and Energy Development Minister Simbi Makoni, a communique was issued in which the two sides particularly note: "There are broad prospects for trade and cooperation between the two countries."

"With regard to energy, an agreement was reached between the two sides on the possibility of supplying Zimbabwe with petroleum products," the document stressed.

"At the request of the Zimbabwean side, the Algerian minister for energy and petrochemical industries expressed readiness to admit Zimbabwean trainees and technicians into Algerian institutes and enterprises.

"Makoni and his delegation visited the Arzew industrial zone. That visit revealed new possibilities for technical and commercial cooperation in the petrochemical industries.

"The two ministers noted that there are broad prospects for trade and cooperation between the two countries and that some agreements could be implemented soon. In addition, the two ministers mentioned the need for a joint commission meeting, that being an appropriate framework for reviewing and monitoring economic, commercial and cultural exchanges between the two countries. The two ministers welcome the closer ties between Algeria and Zimbabwe, which contribute to the development of economic relations between the two African countries."

LIBYA

OFFICIAL SUMMONS GREEK ENVOY OVER AIR INCIDENT

LD041424 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] This morning [as heard] 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, secretary of the people's committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau, summoned the Greek charge d'affaires to the Jamahiriyah. He explained to the charge d'affaires the dimensions of the terrorist act which the U.S. administration engineered and which comprised two U.S. Phantom-14 military aircraft intercepting the Libyan passenger airliner in Greek airspace during its normal flight No 152 from Tripoli to Athens.

The secretary of the people's committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau stressed that this terrorist act constitutes a threat to safety and security in the Mediterranean region. He recalled the fact that Papandreou's government declared that the presence of the U.S. bases in Greece constitutes a danger to the life of the Greek and neighboring peoples.

SUDANESE TEXTILE WORKERS DECLARE GENERAL STRIKE

NC050737 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 Feb 82

[Text] Textile workers in Sudan yesterday declared a general strike as part of the popular uprising in Sudan against Numayri's hardline regime. The strike affected most of the textile plants in the country. The workers formed national committees to supervise the strike and to establish coordination with the rest of the national forces.

MOROCCO

INFORMATION AGREEMENT CONCLUDED WITH YUGOSLAVIA

LD041346 Rabat MAP in English 1232 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] Rabat, 4 Feb (MAP) -- A cooperation agreement in the field of information was concluded here Wednesday between Morocco and Yugoslavia.

The agreement was signed, on the Moroccan side, by Mr Driss Basri, minister of interior and acting minister of information, and on the Yugoslav side by visiting Minister of Information Mr Ismail Bajra. The two parties expressed satisfaction at the signing of this agreement which they said will strengthen relations between the two countries.

The agreement foresees the consolidation of relations between the two countries in the field of information and mainly cooperation between the press agencies "TANJUG" and "MAP".

Under this agreement, the two parties will favor cooperation between journalists' associations as well as between the two countries' institutes of journalism. This cooperation will also cover the field of radio, television and cinema.

SUDAN

LONDON-BASED ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT BANNED

JN031104 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 3 Feb 82

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Feb (SUNA) -- A decision was issued today banning the circulation of the newspaper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Sudan.

This paper has for some time been publishing fabricated news about Sudan, concentrating on a line hostile to the Sudanese Government and provocative to the Sudanese people's feelings. It has published false news about Sudan as well as a caricature abusing the Sudanese people by depicting them as non-Arabs who do not know Arabic although the caricature meant more than that.

The decision was adopted after it was confirmed that the paper had continued its course of abusing the Sudanese people and their relations with the Saudi people by embracing some people known for their enmity toward Sudan.

A responsible source told SUNA that Sudan gave the paper every opportunity and freedom to publish any facts about Sudan and any objective criticism since this is the policy of Sudan which allows for freedom to publish and dispatch any information without censorship, something was commended by all world mass media. He added that Sudan, which has permitted all this, will not permit a newspaper to abuse and ridicule its people.

PRESIDENT MEETS WITH CHIEF EDITORS, MEDIA HEADS

JN041558 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1458 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Feb (SUNA) -- President Numayri met this afternoon with chief editors of newspapers and heads of the news media. The discussion during this meeting dealt with issues and requirements of national action inside and outside the country. Problems facing the performance of the media and the development of media people in a manner commensurate with the requirements of the current phase also were discussed during the meeting.

NUMAYRI SET TO ATTEND MEETINGS ON SAHARA, CHAD

JN041513 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Feb (SUNA) -- President Numayri will head the Sudanese delegation to the meetings of the executive committee of heads of state on Western Sahara and the OAU standing committee concerning Chad. The meetings of the two committees will be held in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, on 8-9 and 10-11 February respectively.

Announcing this in a press statement here today, Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak said President Numayri will submit draft resolutions to both committees. He also said he had received President Numayri's instructions on the subject prior to attending the African foreign ministers' preparatory meetings, which will be held in Nairobi on 6-7 February.

President Numayri received Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani today and reviewed with him all subjects pertaining to the two committees' meetings.

MOROCCAN ENVOY ARRIVES IN KHARTOUM 4 FEB

JN051108 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 5 Feb 82

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Feb (SUNA) -- Ahmed Bensouda, adviser to the Moroccan Royal Cabinet and King Hassan II's special envoy to President Ja'far Numayri, arrived here after midnight last night. In a statement to SUNA, the Moroccan envoy said he is carrying a message from His Majesty King Hassan II to President Ja'far Numayri, dealing with the Western Sahara problem. It to be recalled that President Numayri is a member of the committee formed by the recent African summit conference in Nairobi to deal with the issue of Western Sahara.

SAUDI AMBASSADOR MEETS NUMAYRI, MAKES STATEMENT

JN041542 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1438 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Feb (SUNA) -- Following his meeting with President Numayri today, the Saudi ambassador in Khartoum, Hasan 'Abdallah al-Qurashi, stressed his country's continuous interest in keeping Sudan a bastion of Arabdom and symbol of dignity.

The ambassador expressed his country's hope that all of Sudan will enjoy prosperity, security and stability. He also stressed Saudi Arabia's interest in Sudan and its stability, saying it is not strange for his country to feel this way toward the people and government of Sudan. The Saudi ambassador expressed his confidence that Sudan will always be a center of pride and power for the Arab nation under the leadership of President Numayri and his loyal patriotic men. The ambassador earlier today conveyed messages from Saudi King Khalid and Crown Prince Fahd, in which they asserted their complete support for the Sudanese people and Government.

NUMAYRI RECEIVES CENTRAL AFRICAN DELEGATION

JN041532 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Feb (SUNA) -- President Numayri today received the CAR delegation led by the minister of water, forest, hunting, fishing and tourism, who represented his country in the meetings of the ministerial committee concerning the border with Sudan. During this meeting, the delegation conveyed to President Numayri the greetings of the CAR president, General Kolingba, and its country's desire to develop cooperation and to strengthen ties between the two neighborly countries. President Numayri gave the delegation a written message for President Kolingba in reply to his message. He also said Sudan welcomes developing cooperation and strengthening ties between both countries.

SOMALIA

MINISTER ON ETHIOPIAN 'GENOCIDE' IN ERITREA

EA041620 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1400 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] The Somalia Democratic Republic [SDR] strongly condemns the inhuman massacre unleased by the colonial administration of Abyssinia on the Eritrea masses struggling for their freedom. The Abyssinian regime is backed by foreign forces in its acts of genocide against the defenseless people of Eritrea. Among these foreign forces backing the Abyssinian regime are Libya, Cuba, [word indistinct] and the PDRY. This was stated today at a press conference in Mogadishu by SDR Foreign Affairs Minister Challe Abdurahman Jama Barre.

The minister said Somalia calls on all the foreign forces backing the Abyssinian colonizers in the massacre of the Eritrean people to stop their naked interference in the internal affairs of the Eritrean people. We call on the United Nations, OAU and other international organizations such as Amnesty International to investigate and act on the heinous crimes being committed against humanity and particularly against the Eritrean people. These organizations should do everything in their power to see that the current crisis in Eritrea ends peacefully, said the SDR foreign minister. He added that Somalia gives full support to those struggling for their freedom and self-determination.

The SDR foreign minister, Challe Abdurahman Jama Barre, added that the meeting held in Asmara last week, chaired by Mengistu, was aimed at implementing the plans of the tripartite meeting in Aden. The Aden tripartite meeting was organized, funded and guided by the Russian Government. The meeting was attended by Libya, the PDRY and the Abyssinian regime. They were called together to implement the grand expansionist policy of the Russin Government in Africa as well as to do away with the so-called Eritrean problem once and for all. The minister added that it is imperative for the world at large not to sit back and watch while the people of Eritrea are being annihilated by the Abyssinian regime with the backing of other foreign forces.

Challe Abdurahman Jama Barre disclosed that the current unleasing of massacres of the Eritrean people is not only aimed at the people and the Eritrean fighters but is a move to destroy any form of opposition against the Russian surrogate regime of Abyssinia. The Abyssinian regime is using arms and troops from Libya, missiles from Russia manned by Cuban experts and others from the PDRY, and other foreign military advisers to annihilate the Eritrean people, the minister said.

The minister added that besides the massive military hardware poured into Abyssinia by the Russians, Libya recently gave Abyssinia 20 M-20 helicopters mounted with machineguns and other automatic weapons. Libya also delivered T-24 helicopters to the Abyssinian regime. The sole purpose of these helicopters is to escort MiG aircraft to the battle zone. The Libyan Government also provided the Abyssinian regime with 14 C-130 Hercules troop carriers. One of these Hercules crashed near Addis Ababa on its way to Eritrea, killing all the soldiers on board. Among those who perished in the crash were 31 Libyan officers, 24 Cubans and 25 Abyssinians.

The SDR foreign minister told the people and journalists who attended his press conference that the Eritrean people, whose armed struggle started in 1961, have now entered a new chapter. The Abyssinian regime is now calling for outside support to try to subdue the situation. The minister asked: If Eritrea is part and parcel of Abyssianian territory, what is compelling the Addis Ababa regime to call for foreign troops to help?

The minister added that the current announced campaign by the Abyssinian regime in Eritrea shows the hypocrisy of the Russian leaders toward socialist policy. The Russians are going against all known international charters and rights to self-determination of human society.

Challe Abdurahman Jama Barre, SDR foreign minister, concluded by calling upon the world community to join together and defend the world from Russian expansionist policies.

TANZANIA

PRESIDENT NYERERE ANNOUNCES CABINET CHANGES

EA041904 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] Arusha -- President Nyerere today announced changes in his Cabinet. In the reshuffle, the president appointed five new ministers, five deputy ministers and changed two ministers. The new ministers are:

Minister for agriculture	John Machunda
Minister for natural resources and tourism	Ali Mwinyi
Minister for public service	(Pius Mwandu)
Ministers in the prime ministers office	(Gertrude Mongela) and (Paul Kimiti)
Minister for communications and transport	John Malecela
Minister for mines	Jackson Makweta
Deputy minister in the Ministry of Agriculture	Luhuli Rasyapa
Deputy minister in the Ministry of Communications	(Guntra Mwitatiro)
Deputy minister in the Ministry of Homes Affairs	(Hammad Mohamed)
Deputy Minister in the Ministry of National Education	Nalaila Kiula
Deputy minister in the Ministry of Industries	Evarist Mwanansao

The changes take immediate effect.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

MCLN PROPOSES EMERGENCY PROGRAM TO KOLINGBA

AB041513 Paris AFP in French 1443 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] Paris, 4 Feb (AFP) -- Dr Iddi Lala, leader of the Central African Movement for National Liberation [MCLN], on Thursday proposed to CAR head of state Gen Andre Kolingba an emergency program which, according to him, is designed to find a lasting solution to the crisis facing the country.

In a communique sent to Paris, the MCLN, which claimed responsibility for the bomb attack on 14 July 1981 in Bangui, denounces the frenzied campaign against its leader and calls for a conference -- before it is too late -- to group all Central African political and labor union forces. According to the communique, the conference should make it possible to set up a provisional national union government to put the economy back on its feet, to hold general elections under the OAU supervision and to draw up a timetable for the withdrawal of French troops from the Central African Republic.

CHAD

AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES FAN CONTACTS, FOREIGN TIES

AB041714 Paris AFP in French 1544 GMT 4 Feb 82

[By AFP special correspondent Alexandre Buccianti]

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Feb (AFP) -- Mahmoud Adji, new Chadian ambassador to Sudan, said he has had contacts with members of Hissein Habre's FAN.

In an interview granted to AFP, Adji stated, however, that these contacts were made on a personal basis and that he is not holding talks as such with leaders of the FAN, but only in his capacity as a Chadian citizen. We fulfill our duty toward all Chadians without recognizing the existence of the various factions, he added. He then reaffirmed the Chadian Government's readiness to open negotiations with the FAN in order to stop the hostilities, but he ruled out any dialogue with Habre.

The Chadian diplomat, who assumed duties on 12 January 1982, also explained that the Chadian and Sudanese Governments agreed to set up a joint committee entrusted with examining the issue of the FAN members currently living in Sudan in order to find a solution to the problem.

On the normalization of relations between Chad on the one hand and Sudan and Egypt on the other, which were frozen following the Libyan intervention, Adji emphasized they are rapidly being restored and a joint delegation from Sudan and Egypt is expected in Ndjamena on Monday to restore these relations at the ambassadorial level.

Concerning Egypt, Adji indicated that the Chadian justice minister had delivered an invitation to President Husni Mubarak to visit Chad, stating that the Egyptian head of state had agreed to it and said he would undertake this visit as soon as possible.

On Chad-Libyan relations, Adji said he felt they are currently cloudy and hoped that with time they would improve.

The ambassador indicated that a great number of the 3.5 million Chadians settled in Sudan want to return home but they are prevented by lack of means of communication and sufficient infrastructure in Chad. Thanks to the general amnesty granted by President Goukouni Oueddei and the aid given by the UN High Commission for Refugees, many of the people taking refuge in Cameroon and the CAR have now returned to Chad.

According to the ambassador, the Chadian Government has the situation well in hand, but it needs foreign economic and financial aid to begin reconstruction and to wipe out the scars of the civil war. Finally, he appealed to all Chadians to abandon their rival factions and to unite to achieve the nation's common interest of peace and stability.

ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT TO VISIT NDJAMENA 5 FEB

AB041305 Paris AFP in French 1213 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] Ndjamena, 4 Feb (AFP) -- President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire will arrive in Ndjamena tomorrow, it has been learned today from reliable sources. The length of the visit by the Zairian head of state and the reason have not been disclosed.

The Cabinet of the Transitional National Union Government, which is meeting this morning in the Chadian capital, will definitely announce President Mobutu's visit at the end of its session, the same sources add.

ZAIRIAN BATTALION EXPECTED 'IN NEXT FEW DAYS'

AB041418 Paris AFP in French 1238 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] Ndjamena, 4 Feb (AFP) -- A Zairian battalion is expected in Ndjamena in the next few days to strengthen the inter-African peace-keeping force in Chad, Linga Linga Mushem Vula Keyedjune, Zairian charge d'affaires, said on Wednesday. The Zairian diplomat made this statement after presenting his credentials to Foreign Affairs Minister Acyl Ahmat. Linga Linga said the commander of the new battalion is already in Ndjamena. More than 1,000 Zairian soldiers already are in Chad with the inter-African force, it will be recalled.

On Monday, Congolese Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Nze, who arrived in Ndjamena on an unexpected visit, affirmed that the Congo no longer intends to send troops but prefers to help Chad train the Integrated National Army (ANI). This assistance, Nze said, is more vital than the sending of troops. He explained that the Congo is not against the dispatch of troops to Chad, but it now prefers the approach of helping the ANI.

ZAIRE

ROME PAPER INTERVIEWS CONGOLESE OPPOSITIONIST

PM030123 Rome AVANTI! in Italian 21 Jan 82 p 7

[Interview in Rome with Paul Roger Mokede, chairman of the "Lumumba" Congolese National Movement; date not given]

[Text] Paul Roger Mokede, chairman of the "Lumumba" Congolese National Movement and leader of the opposition -- clandestine and exiled -- to Zairian dictator Mobutu, has been visiting Rome for the past few days and has met with Socialist and Social Democratic representatives and with leaders of the Italian Federation of Trade Unions and the CGIL. The text of the interview follows:

[Question] A superficial view of the Third World prevails in the West -- particularly concerning African liberation movements. They often are indiscriminately grouped together within the USSR's ideological and political sphere of influence. What is the history of your political movement and what are its present political stands?

[Answer] We distinguish between two alignments in the West: the forces that support the most reactionary regimes backed by the multinationals and those who support the movements that practice genuine nonalignment. There must at least be agreement on the meaning of the term "nonalignment." Some parties and movements claim to be nonaligned but are not so at all.

A tendency now exists in Africa toward separation from the two superpowers, the United States and the USSR. Our movement was founded in 1958 by Patrice Lumumba who is still very alive and popular in people's memories in our homeland. The renewed Congolese National Movement now invokes democratic socialism and has as its objective the full independence of the Congo (we reject the name Zaire, which is a legacy of colonialism) within a unitary democratic domestic framework. We reject both Marxism and capitalism and are struggling for a black African socialism and for a socialist internationalism with a foreign policy of genuine nonalignment. Our chief aim is to overthrow the corrupt and reactionary Mobutu regime and to establish real democracy.

[Question] What is the present situation in Congo-Kinshasa and your movement's real representation?

[Answer] The situation is becoming more and more critical. The people are oppressed and are literally dying of starvation. Furthermore, they are being constantly humiliated by the military dictatorship. The regime's corruption is reaching frightening proportions; Mobutu's personal wealth totals the astronomical figure of $5 billion, which is more than the deficit in our foreign balance of payments, which totals $4.4 million [as published]. The party that has governed since the 1965 coup d'etat is based on corruption and keeps itself in power by means of rigged elections in which there is only one presidential candidate and the population is forced to vote under the threat of being shot. At the same time, however, the government, for instance, leaves the diplomatic and consular structure entirely without funds; all the embassies and consulates have had their telephones disconnected. In Belgium alone, the telephone bills owed amount to 1 billion Belgian francs -- not to mention the use of narcotics and support of their use by circles close to the dictator's family, with the result that they are made even more wealthy and thousands of youngsters are corrupted and arrested in our country. Many have fled to avoid the repression, the arrests and the killings. There are about a million exiles out of a total population of 26 million -- a huge figure and a clear sign of the regime's unpopularity.

[Question] Since 1975, the traditional U.S. presence and the presence of other former colonial powers have been joined by large-scale Soviet intervention, especially in the Horn of Africa but also in other countries. What are the effects of this new presence?

[Answer] I believe the two superpowers, the United States and the USSR, have hurried to occupy the space opened by the gradual withdrawal of the Europeans. Their aim is to again dominate Africa and, in the future, Europe. The USSR's presence is due to reasons of rivalry, to safeguard its own interests and to compete with the Americans in penetrating and dominating African countries. We are opposed to the superpowers' presence; they must stop their rivalry from clashing on African territory, partly because the Yalta agreements in no way embrace the partitioning of our continent.

[Question] Right at the moment, various circles are questioning the Yalta balances, particularly in connection with the tragic events in Poland. Do you believe these stands could have repercussions in Africa, which is not formally included in these agreements?

[Answer] As my party's political leader, I can only resolutely support the initiative taken by French Socialist President Francois Mitterrand who challenged these agreements in his 29 December speech. I urge all movements struggling for freedom and democratic socialism to support that stance, partly to halt the clash between the superpowers on African soil.

Nothing has been done on the political plane in any of the countries in which the United States or the USSR have established themselves; there is nothing but wreckage, assassinations, arbitrary arrests and civil wars, which continue to torment Africa. Only when it is possible to drive the superpowers out of Africa will this continent find freedom and development.

[Question] Do you believe that a greater European commitment to truly autonomous progessive movements and forces could facilitate a strengthening of an independent European role and a unification of its foreign policy?

[Answer] I believe that to unite, Europe must detach itself from the two superpowers; thus it will be able to play a much greater role in Africa, partly because it is better acquainted with its problems than with the problems of any other continent, just as Africa knows Europe's problems. I believe that to do this, the whole of Europe must unite -- including the Eastern bloc countries, which should be released from the Yalta agreements. If, for instance, the Eastern bloc countries took Yugoslavia's example, it would be positive. I believe that Europe must reflect deeply on this matter because throughout history it has been responsible for all the wars.

EVACUATION OF STUDENTS TO REGIONS CONTINUES

AB040925 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] After the closure of the National Teachers' Training Institue and Kinshasa University following a strike recently embarked upon by some students there, the evacuation of students to their places or origin -- which began on Tuesday -- continued yesterday. All regional headquarters witnessed the arrival of contigents of students who came from the capital. After name checks, they undergo the usual process: They are put aboard vehicles which will take them to their parents. Vehicles have been allocated for this task.

Yesterday afternoon the 85 ringleaders, including a girl, were enlisted into our Zairian Armed Forces. The ceremony took place yesterday at the Kokolo camp. It was presided over by the secretary of state for national defense. The governor of Kinshasa, Citizen Sakombi Ekope, also was present. He condemned the students behavior as detrimental to the security and (?welfare) of the people in Kinshasa. Uniforms, boots and caps were handed to the recruits. The first batch will leave Kinshasa today for the Kotakoli paratroopers training center in the Equateur Region. Their training will last 2 years.

GHANA

RAWLINGS SAYS PNDC WILL NOT HAND OVER POWER

AB041919 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] The chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, has made it clear that the council will not hand over power to any group of people as the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council [AFRC] did in 1979 after ruling for only 3 months. He said this time he wants Ghanaians to understand something about the concept of power. Any man who talks about the hand over of power through the ballot box or through whatever means supposes that power is not at the right place because power is not transferable.

Flight Lieutenant Rawlings was speaking in a BBC interview. He stressed that power must lie with the people and the people must be part of the decisionmaking process and this is precisely what the PNDC wants to achieve. He said the party system was not achieving the desired aspirations of this country. People were just reduced to spectators. They were just given pieces of paper to put into a box and with it goes their rights to participate in the decisionmaking process, he added.

Asked whether it was power he sought by his coming back, he replied I do not wield power and I never did wield power. I am just an ordinary, hungry, screaming Ghanaian who wants to realize his creative potential, who wants to contribute just like the several millions of people in Ghana.

On the fate of the deposed President Limann, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings said the final decision on him will come from Ghanaians who overthrew him. He said the Limann administration did not serve the country; it had no intention of serving the country; it only served the People's National Party.

Flight Lieutenant Rawlings again accused President Limann of failing to stamp out corruption and purging the party as the AFRC had demanded. He further accused the government of violating human rights, adding that soldiers and workers who tried to stop corruption and expose it ended up being victims.

Addresses Police Personnel

AB042116 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] At a meeting with police men and women at the police headquarters in Accra today, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings stressed that the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] is determined to forge ahead to create conditions for the restoration of social justice in the country and that is why the Ghanaian should realize his potential creativity and assert himself.

Flight Lieutenant Rawlings assured Ghanians that their rights can no longer be trampled upon. They should watch who their enemies are and not allow themselves to be manipulated by a few people in the society. In order to become part of the decisionmaking process, he said, Ghanaians have the right to know what is going wrong.

Talking about the revolution, the chairman observed that when a people are made to undergo a callous and deplorable experience, there is the tendency to react. He asked the people to take the revolution seriously because most countries in the world have gone through similar revolutions to reach their present positions. He noted that if there was unity among the people, the ousted regime would not have been able to use the divide and rule tactics to commit economic crimes against the state. These crimes, he said, resulted in the killing of the moral fiber of the people. Flight Lieutenant Rawlings noted that under such circumstances, the army and the police were guarding nothing but their own poverty.

THREE SECRETARIES DECIDE NOT TO RESIGN POSTS

AB042001 Paris AFP in French 1749 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] Accra, 4 Feb (AFP) -- It was learned in Accra that K.B. Asante, who recently was appointed secretary for commerce by the Provisional National Defense Council (PNDC) the ruling power in Ghana on Thursday revoked the decision he and three other secretaries made to resign from their posts.

K.B. Asante, former ambassador to the EEC in the Limann administration and former secretary general of the Social Democratic Front, pointed out that this change of mind came about after a meeting with the PNDC chairman, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings. Asante said that he and his three colleagues, Obed Asamoah (foreign affairs) J.S. Kuffour (local government) and Alhaji Idrissu Mahama (transport and communications) had decided to resign after being described as enemies of the revolution by the students unions and other organizations in view of their ties with the former proscribed parties.

It will be recalled that in a speech delivered on Wednesday Flight Lieutenant Rawlings asked Asante and his colleagues not to leave their posts.

COUNCIL ORDERS ALL BANKS TO CLOSE 5 FEB

AB041923 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] The Provisional National Defense Council (PNDC) has directed that all banks in the country should be closed to the public tomorrow. A statement from the office of the council said, however, that all banking staff are to go to work as usual.

NIGERIAN COMMUNITY SAYS MEMBERS NOT MOLESTED

AB041425 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] The patron of the Nigerian community in Ghana, Chief Taiwo Sholowo, has rejected Nigerian reports that a number of Nigerians have been stranded in Ghana and have been molested by Ghanaians. He was reacting to views expressed in the Federal House of Representatives about alleged molestation of Nigerians whose lives the members said were not safe.

At a news conference in Accra, Chief Sholowo said apart from the incident involving few Nigerians trading in colanuts whose case has been settled by the Nigerian High Commissioner in Ghana, the community has had no knowledge of any molestation involving Nigerians. He said as far as members of the community know there are no Nigerians stranded in Ghana. The only time that nationals of various countries got stranded in Ghana was when the Ghanaian authorities closed the borders shortly after the military takeover in the country, and since the borders were reopened everybody has left Ghana in spite of the introduction of exit permits which pose no problem to anybody leaving the country.

Chief Sholowo stressed that lives of Nigerians in Ghana are not threatened neither do they anticipate any danger. He added that members of the community are safe and are going about their normal business.

Meanwhile, the Nigerian Minstry for External Affairs has said the reports that Nigerians are stranded in Ghana are false. It said aircraft sent to Ghana to evacuate the so-called stranded Nigerians returned to Lagos almost empty.

On Monday, the Nigerian House of Representatives unaimously passed a motion calling for all Nigerians to be repatriated home from Ghana. The motion alleged that Nigerians were also being molested.

LIBERIA

DOE DISMISSES PORT AUTHORITY DIRECTOR, DEPUTY

AB041954 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] The managing director of the National Port Authority, (Anthony Tarpeh), has been dismissed from his position effective immediately by the Liberian head of state, CIC Samuel Kanyon Doe, with the advice and consent of the People's Redemption Council Government. Also dismissed are Deputy Managing Director W.K. Garnett and the acting comptroller, [name indistinct]. The dismissal of the men came from a report filed by the bureau of general auditing charging the authorities of the port with misappropriating $1.5 million as well as incompetence and mismanagement of the port. The three individuals are to be turned over to the Justice Ministry for legal action for the recovery of funds misappropriated by them. Meanwhile the adviser to the head of state on national and international affairs, Jackson F. Doe, has been asked to take over until further notice.

RETIRING, DISMISSED SOLDIERS TO BE DISARMED

AB041641 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1600 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] The deputy speaker of the People's Redemption Council [PRC], Lt Col William S. Gould, has asked all army commanders at various military detachments in the country to disarm army personnel following their retirement or dismissal. Lieutenant Colonel Gould said allowing ex-soldiers to carry arms was not in the best interest of the Liberian revolution. The PRC deputy speaker was commenting on problems affecting various army (?units) at a press conference at his capitol office in Monrovia yesterday. He called on all security agents to redouble their efforts in protecting the lives and properties of the people.

MALI

COMMUNIQUE EXPLAINS ADMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

AB041608 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] A communique was issued by the president on the amendment of the Constitution which the National Assembly deliberated and adopted unanimously during its session of 28 September 1981. The president promulgates the following bill into law:

Article (?1): Articles 21, 25, 30, 38, 41, of the Constitution of 2 June 1974 have been amended as follows:

New paragraph 1 of Article 21: the president is elected for a term of 6 years by direct universal suffrage.

New paragraph 25: In case of resignation of the president, his total incapacity or death, the president of the National Assembly temporarily acts as the president. A new president is elected for a term of 6 years within a period of 50 days after the first day of the total absence of the president.

New paragraph of Article 30: Under the same conditions, the president can nominate a prime minister.

New Article 38: The government is made up of the president of the government, and eventually the prime minister, as well as ministers. The president is the president of the government.

New paragraph of Article 41: The National Assembly is elected for a term of 3 years by direct universal suffrage in accordance with the mode of voting defined by the electoral code.

ANGOLA

DOS SANTOS REJECTS CONTACT GROUP ELECTION PLAN

AB041854 Paris AFP in French 1836 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Text] Luanda, 4 Feb (AFP) -- Jose Eduardo dos Santos, Angola's head of state, has once again categorically rejected the electoral process proposed by the Western contact group for the settlement of the Namibian problem.

During ceremonies in Lubango (southern Angola) marking the 21st anniversary of the commencement of the uprising against Portugal on 4 February 1961, Dos Santos said: We feel (the electoral process) is another maneuver to delay the independence of Namibia and to protect the interests of the white minority. We support the stand adopted by SWAPO which categorically rejects these proposals.

The Angolan head of state stressed, in this connection, that the state of war in southern Angola will end only after a just solution is found to the Namibian problem.

CUBAN DELEGATION ARRIVES IN LUANDA 3 FEB

EA041258 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 3 Feb 82

[Excerpts] A Cuban party delegation arrived early this evening in Luanda, led by Jorge Risquet, Political Bureau member and secretary of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee.

Jorge Risquet said on arrival that the visit comes within the framework of strengthening the friendly relations between the parties, governments and peoples of the two countries. The Cuban leader also said he will exchange views with Angolan leaders on the unity of action of the two countries in the struggle against imperialism, apartheid and Zionism and for the progress of peace and socialism.

On the major offensive by North American imperialism and racist South Africa against southern Africa, Jorge Risquet said that, by this action, imperialism aims to recoup its losses and block the march of peoples toward freedom. The Cuban leader reaffirmed the solidarity of the Cuban people with the Angolan people and all other peoples struggling for freedom.

In Luanda, Jorge Risquet tomorrow will attend the ceremonies celebrating the 21st anniversary of the armed struggle for the national liberation.

On arrival, Jorge Risquet was received by Lucio Lara and Ambrosio Lukoki, members of the MPLA-Workers Party Political Bureau, and Cuban ambassador to Angola Francia Mestre.

SOVIET OFFICIAL EXPLAINS 5-8 FEB VISIT

AB021304 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1105 GMT 2 Feb 82

[Text] Luanda, 2 Feb (ANGOP) -- Guirma Guiriov, secretary general of the Soviet People's Friendship Association, will visit Angola from 5 to 8 February.

Guiriov, who announced the news to ANGOP after arriving in Luanda on his way to Sao Tome and Principe, added that the aim of the visit is to discuss the development of bilateral relations with officials of the Angolan People's Solidarity League.

The Soviet official also revealed that his country this year will grant 15 scholarships to Angola for the training of Angolans in economics.

Guirma Guiriov further indicated that this year Angolan culture days will be organized for the first time in the Soviet Union. A scientific and technical exposition of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaydzhan will be held in Angola in May.

The activities planned by the friendship associations of the two countries include a lecture dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the birth of the founder of the party and nation, President Agostinho Neto, he concluded.

SOUTH AFRICA

OFFICIAL ON TRADE AGREEMENT WITH ZIMBABWE

LD041148 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Excerpt] The director general of industries, commerce and tourism in South Africa, Dr (Klerk Du Plessis), has confirmed that talks have begun on a possible renewal of the trade agreement with Zimbabwe. According to a remark made by the prime minister of Zimbabwe, Dr (Du Plessis) said that the talks had (?already) begun after an approach from Zimbabwe in December last year, but that no decisions on the principle of the agreement had been reached. Dr (Du Plessis) said there was no meeting going on at present and he was not prepared to comment on when the talks were likely to be resumed.

ZIMBABWE

ACP, EEC REQUEST EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

AB041228 Lagos NAN in English 1140 GMT 4 Feb 82

[By Adewale Fatona]

[Text] Salisbury, 4 Feb (NAN) -- All countries have again been called upon to respect the (?various United) Nations resolutions on embargo against South Africa.

In a draft resolution released yesterday in Salisbury, 71 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states and the European Economic Community (EEC) asked for both military and economic sanctions against South Africa.

The draft demands an embargo on the supply of arms, including the sale or transfer of weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment and spare parts to South Africa. It also asks the international community to refrain from any cooperation with the South African Government in the manufacture and development of nuclear weapons.

The draft, which is subject to the approval of the ACP-EEC joint consultative assembly currently meeting in the Zimbabwean capital asked the halting of oil supplies to South Africa and the reduction of economic contacts with it. (?It also asked) the assembly to set up a special committee to monitor the polices pursued by the EEC member-states in South Africa.

The draft recognizes the role being placed by the South-West Africa People's Organization and the African National Congress in Namibia and South Africa respectively, and endorses the one-man one-vote system of election proposed for Namibia.

Sources close to the joint meeting told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA that members of the European Parliament would introduce amendment moves to water down the resolution.